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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Radioactive fallout suit: Idaho residents who believe Cold War nuclear testing harmed their health will testify before a National Academy of Sciences panel to say they should be included in a federal compensation program.

About 150 Idaho residents have written to the board to argue that radioactive fallout from atmospheric testing in Nevada in the 1950s and 1960s also affected Idaho.

The academy's Board on Radiation Effects Research scheduled the hearing for Nov. 6.

The board will release a report in March that will recommend whether the government should expand the compensation program.

World

Greek airliner: A police search concluded there was no threat to a Greek airliner forced to make an emergency landing in Britain after a bomb alert, officers said Monday.

Police searched the Airbus A340 airliner and the luggage of some 300 passengers for six hours after the Olympic Airlines plane landed with a fighter jet escort at Stansted airport north of London on Sunday.

But police found no evidence of a bomb, and the airliner will continue its journey from Athens to New York.

Police said "well rehearsed procedures" were followed after an anonymous call to a Greek newspaper said there was a bomb on board Olympic Airlines flight 411 from Athens to New York's JFK Airport.

Russian reforms: President Vladimir Putin put sweeping political reforms in motion Monday, sending to Russia's parliament a bill on eliminating the popular election of regional governors and district parliament races.

Putin has explained the proposal is a necessary response to the Beslan school hostage seizure and other terror attacks, saying a strong federal government is needed to fend off threats. His opponents describe the reform as a deadly blow to Russia's fledgling democracy.

The motion would abolish popular elections of regional governors, who instead would be nominated by the president and confirmed by local legislatures — a move critics said would further strengthen an authoritarian streak in the Kremlin's policy.

Bosnian war crime suspects: Faced with U.S. and European Union demands to extradite top war crimes suspects to a U.N. tribunal, the Serbian and Bosnian Serb presidents on Monday pledged to step up efforts to finally arrest the fugitives.

Serbian President Boris Tadic, speaking after talks with Bosnian Serb President Draganovic, said that "the suspects must be extradited to The Hague tribunal to face justice ... there is no dilemma about that."

Bosnian Serb wartime leader Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, his top general,



West Bank raids: During an army operation in the West Bank town of Jenin on Monday, Palestinian youths try to steal parts from an Israeli armored vehicle, after a soldier within opened fire in the air through a cracked hatch. Israeli troops hunting militants raided a West Bank hospital Monday, searching rooms and calling on fugitives over loudspeakers to surrender, but they left without making any arrests, witnesses said.

are the U.N. tribunal's most-wanted suspects.

Karadzic is believed to be hiding in the half of Bosnia controlled by the Serbs, while Mladic is thought to be hiding in Serbia.

Cable-car fire trial: Prosecutors in Salzburg, Austria, on Monday appealed eight of 16 acquittals in a trial of suspects in an alpine cable-car fire that killed 155 people in November 2000.

At the end of the trial in February, prosecutors had said immediately that they would appeal the verdicts, and lawyers for the victims' families said they would continue civil proceedings seeking millions of dollars in compensation.

Under Austrian law, lawyers for the defendants affected by the appeal now must come forward with their reactions. The lawyers normally would have only two weeks to respond, but APA quoted some of the attorneys as saying they would seek three months to state their case.

New Panchen Lama: The 14-year-old boy picked by Beijing as the new Panchen Lama, the second-highest figure in Tibetan Buddhism, has praised communist rule in Tibet in what the government described as his first published interview.

Gyalsen Norbu also reportedly said religious freedom in Tibet is "fully respected."

His comments, carried by state media, come amid complaints by activists abroad that government controls are damaging Tibet's religious institutions, the foundation of its Buddhist society.

"We wouldn't have made all these achievements without the good leadership of the Chinese Communist Party," the official Xinhua News Agency quoted Norbu as saying in an interview Friday.

Japanese kidnappings: Japan could consider economic sanctions against impoverished North Korea to force it to provide more details about Japanese citizens it kidnapped in the 1970s and 80s, Japan's new

foreign minister said Monday.

North Korea has admitted to kidnapping 13 Japanese citizens to teach its spies, and released five of them in 2002. Pyongyang says eight other victims have died, but has refused to respond to Tokyo's demands for details of their fate to allay suspicions they are still alive.

The two sides met in Beijing over the weekend, but Japan said the North had not investigated its claims sufficiently and Tokyo demanded more detailed reports.

Indonesian torture: Indonesian security forces in Aceh province are systematically torturing suspected rebels, including subjecting them to electric shock, the New York-based Human Rights Watch said in a report Monday.

The allegations, based on interviews with 35 rebels being held in Indonesian jails, were denied by military officials in the province on the northern tip of Sumatra island.

The 50-page report highlights the challenges facing Indonesia's next president, former military general Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, who has said resolving the 28-year-long conflict will be a priority when he takes office next month.

The report documents routine torture, including the use of electric shock, burning with cigarettes and beatings against detainees accused of membership in or support for the Free Aceh Movement.

Swedish politician's death: Sweden's Supreme Court said Monday it will hear an appeal from Nov. 1-12 to reinstate the prison sentence for the man convicted of killing Foreign Minister Anna Lindh.

Mijailo Mijailovic was convicted in March of fatally stabbing Lindh on Sept. 10, 2003, as she shopped unguarded in a downtown department store. But his life prison sentence was changed to psychiatric care after he appealed.

The Supreme Court will decide if that appeals court ruling should stand, spokeswoman Synnove Gustavsson said.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Correction

A story in Monday's editions incorrectly listed the number of fatalities in Florida from Hurricane Jeanne. As of Sunday, at least three people had died in the storm as of Sunday.

Comics, advice and
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U.S. jets target insurgents in Sadr City

BY KIM HOUSEGO

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — U.S. jets pounded suspected Shiite militant positions in the Baghdad slum of Sadr City on Monday, killing at least five people and wounding 40. Elsewhere, insurgents detonated two car bombs, killing seven members of the National Guard in the latest attacks targeting Iraq's beleaguered security forces.

The airstrikes in Sadr City, a hotbed of insurgents loyal to renegade Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, struck several "positively identified" militant hideouts, the U.S. military said.

Residents said explosions lit up the sky for hours before dawn.

Mangled vehicles, debris and shards of glass littered the streets.

Five people were killed and 40 were wounded — including 15 women and nine children, said Dr. Qassem Saddam of the Imam Ali hospital.

At least two children wrapped in bloodstained bandages rested in hospital beds and one man suffered burns from the explosion.

Insurgents also fired three mortar rounds at a nearby U.S. Army base, but the shells fell short and exploded in a civilian neighborhood, said U.S. Army spokesman Lt. Col. Jim Hutton. It was not immediately known if there any casualties.

"While maintaining security is a primary concern, we are also very concerned about — putting the innocent residents of eastern Baghdad at risk," Hutton said. "The enemy shows no concern for the Iraqi people."

In Sadr, insurgents set off a car bomb as a seven-vehicle Iraqi National Guard patrol was passing by, killing at least four guards-



Local residents look at the remains of a car bomb after it exploded as a seven-vehicle Iraqi National Guard patrol was passing by Monday in Mosul, Iraq. At least four guardsmen were killed and three others were wounded, police said.

AP

men and wounding three others. Police Capt. Mushtaq Abdul Karim said Gunmen followed up the blast with a burst of automatic weapons fire before fleeing the scene, said Lt. Col. Saleh Jamer, the patrol's commander.

Near the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah, a suicide attacker exploded a car bomb at an Iraqi National Guard checkpoint, killing at least guard members, police Lt. Zeidan Mustafa said.

The attack at Saqlawiya, 12 miles northwest of Fallujah, also injured a number of people, said Ahmed Saleh Sarhan, a witness.

Details were not immediately available.

The U.S. military and National Guard in Baghdad had no information on the attack.

In a separate attack, insurgents fired several mortar rounds that struck a police academy on Pales-

tine street in east Baghdad early Monday, said Interior Ministry spokesman Col. Najah Shakre.

There were no immediate reports of injuries.

The National Guard is the centerpiece of U.S. plans to turn over security responsibilities after elections slated for January.

Guardsmen and Iraqi police have been targeted repeatedly by insurgents who are trying to undermine the interim government and drive out the U.S.-led coalition.

On Sunday, a roadside bomb apparently intended for a U.S. military convoy exploded prematurely outside the city of Baquba, killing four civilians, said Hussein Ali of the Baquba General Hospital.

The latest attacks came as al-Sadr aides said the cleric plans to release a new peace initiative soon to put an end to the fighting between his militiamen and U.S.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, 1,042 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 792 died as a result of hostile action and 250 died of nonhostile causes. The figures include three military civilians. The department did not provide an update Saturday.

The British military has reported 65 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, eight; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; the Netherlands, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 904 U.S. military members have died — 683 as a result of hostile action and 221 of nonhostile causes, according to the military.

The latest deaths reported by U.S. Central Command:

■ No deaths reported.

The latest identification reported by the Department of Defense:

■ Marine Lance P. Aaron Boyles, 24, Alameda, Calif.; killed Friday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to Headquarters and Service Company, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

■ Marine Sgt. Timothy Shane Folarin, 21, Sonoma, Texas; killed Friday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine 2nd Lt. Ryan Leduc, 28, Pana, Ill.; died Friday as result of a noncombat vehicle accident in Rutbah, Iraq; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, 11th Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Ramon Mateo, 20, Suffolk County, N.Y.; killed Friday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to Headquarters and Service Company, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

forces and help pave the way for general elections scheduled for early next year. However, al-Sadr has made similar promises before.

Sheik Hassan al-Adhary, who heads al-Sadr's office in Sadr City, said the initiative "aims to

achieve peace in all parts of Iraq and lays out a plan to hold general elections across the country in order to end the war, which say it cannot be held because of the security situation."

He declined to provide details of the plan.

Kidnapped Iranian diplomat freed after 57 days

BY SCIEHEREZADE FARAMARZI

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A kidnapped Iranian diplomat was released Monday after nearly two months in captivity, the Iranian Embassy said.

Fereidoun Jahani, the Iranian consul in Karbala, spent 57 days in captivity after he was seized by a group calling itself the Islamic Army in Iraq, which accused Iran of meddling in Iraq's affairs.

The newly freed Jahani arrived at the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad on Monday afternoon and was in good health, said Abbas

Attar, director of the Iranian ambassador's office in Baghdad.

Attar said the captors demanded Iran release Iraqi prisoners of war from the Iran-Iraq conflict of the 1980s and that the Iranian government stop interfering in Iraq's internal affairs. He was released after 55 days when the Teheran government said it held no Iraqi POWs and "when they (captors) realized Iran's active role in helping the Iraqi people," Attar said. He said that no ransom was paid.

Iran and Iraq have exchanged thousands of prisoners and remains of dead soldiers since the war ended in 1988 but a number of

former combatants are still missing.

Iran's Foreign Ministry said in a statement Monday that the diplomat was released after persistent diplomatic efforts and cooperation of Iraqi officials.

Jahani was abducted in early August while traveling between Baghdad and Karbala.

"During the first days, their (kidnappers) relations with me was not good and they were tense," Jahani told reporters after his release. "After they knew from the Iranian government that it is not holding any Iraqi prisoners of war they started treating me well." He said they posed no other demands.

Jahani said he did not know where he was held. But Attar said Jahani was released in Fallujah, the Sunni insurgent-controlled city west of Baghdad.

The Islamic Army in Iraq, which claimed to be holding him in a video released Aug. 7, also has claimed to be holding two French journalists, Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot, who disappeared Aug. 20 during a trip to the southern Iraqi city of Najaf. The group demanded that France revoke a new law banning Islamic head scarves from state schools. The law went into effect as planned, and there has been no word since on the two French.

2 GIs charged in Iraqi's death

BAGHDAD — Two U.S. soldiers have been charged with murder in the death of an Iraqi civilian, the 1st Cavalry Division announced Monday.

A military statement identified the soldiers as Staff Sgt. Johnny Horne Jr. and Staff Sgt. Cardenas Alban, both from Company C, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment from Fort Riley, Kan.

The military declined to provide details about the case, saying an investigation is ongoing.

But the statement said the alleged incidents are not related to murder charges filed against Sgt. Michael Williams and Spc. Brent May, from the same unit. They were

charged in the deaths of three Iraqis, the military announced last week. Williams was also charged with obstruction of justice and making a false official statement, the military said.

Monday's charges were the third set of murder charges filed in just over two weeks against soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry.

England court-martial set for January

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — Pfc. Lynndie England will be court-martialed in January on charges stemming from the abuse of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison, the Army announced Monday.

A motions hearing is scheduled for Dec. 1-3, with the

trial scheduled for Jan. 17-28, according to Lt. Gen. John Sines, commander of the 18th Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg.

England, a 21-year-old reservist stationed at Fort Bragg who is seen in some of the most notorious photos taken at the prison, was charged in May and did not enter a plea.

If convicted of all 19 counts, she could receive up to 38 years in jail, a dishonorable discharge and forfeiture of all pay and allowances.

Among the charges England faces is conspiring to commit maltreatment of Iraqi detainees by posing in a photograph holding a leash around the detainee, indecent acts with numerous soldiers and wrongfully creating sexually explicit photographs of herself.

From The Associated Press

Report: Army could shorten combat tours

Stars and Stripes

The Army is considering cutting the length of its 12-month combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, senior Army officials have told The New York Times.

Senior Army personnel officials, as well as top Army Reserve and National Guard officials, say the Army's ability to recruit and retain soldiers will erode unless tours are shortened, to between six and nine months, roughly equivalent to the seven-month tours that are the norm in the Marine Corps, the Times reported in its Monday edition.

But other Army officials responsible for combat operations and war planning have significant concerns that the Army — at its current size and as now configured — cannot meet projected requirements for Iraq and Afghanistan unless active duty and reserve troops spend 12 months on the ground.

Officials propose 6- to 9-month deployments in Iraq, Afghanistan; other officials hesitant

Officials told the Times it is too early to predict if or when a new deployment policy might take effect. But the proposal collides with the need to maintain troop strength in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Army planners say they must at least prepare for the possibility that it will be necessary to keep troops at the current levels in Iraq — 138,000 — through 2007, even though no political decision has been made in that regard.

The prospect of lengthy combat tours already appears to be affecting recruitment. The Guard had set a goal of 56,000 recruits for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, but is likely to end up with about 51,000, he said.

It would be the first time since 1994 that the Guard has missed its sign-up goal, the paper reports.

"The Army definitely wants to reduce the stress on the force," a senior Army official told Reuters news service. "Recruiting and retention are of concern. But we're nowhere near the panic state."

The official told Reuters that there was concern among some in the Army that this step could undermine units on the battlefield and that any change might be at least two years away.

"Shorter tours cause more turbulence," with more soldiers in transit to and from the combat zones, the official said.

"It affects cohesiveness. It affects their ability to conduct their duty in a combat zone by knowing the terrain, knowing the enemy and knowing who is friendly. People come in and they'll be looking to get out."

About 40 percent of U.S. troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan are National Guard and Reserve part-time troops summoned to active duty from civilian life. Reuters noted Monday.

In addition, the Army has issued "stop-loss" orders preventing tens of thousands of soldiers designated to serve in Iraq or Afghanistan from leaving the military if their volunteer service commitment ends during their deployment.

The Army last year began requiring its soldiers to serve 12-month stints in Iraq as Pentagon plans to scale back the number of U.S. troops there were scuttled by the reality of a tenuous and spreading insurgency.

More guardsmen and reservists noting job troubles when they return from war

Labor Department moves to clarify regulations and enforce law

By SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — An increasing number of guardsmen and reservists are returning home from war to find they no longer have their jobs, or have been snubbed for promotions and raises in spite of a 1994 law that protects them, Labor Department officials said.

An increase in complaints prompted the department to submit proposed regulations that both clarify and better enforce the law, the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Act of 1994.

It also launched an education campaign for employers and employers on protections afforded under the USERRA, which prohibits the firing of a member of the reserve component, passing them up for promotions, or not paying benefits just because he or she is called to active duty.

Usually, violations are rectified easily, said a spokesman for the Labor Department.

"The biggest problem was a lack of understanding, and once they were told of the laws, employers almost always did the right thing," a Labor Department official said.

However, 6 percent to 8 percent of the average 1,000 complaints filed over the past few years were resolved only after the agency took the matter to the judicial system, the spokesman said.

That's a percentage too high for Sen. Tom Daschle, D-S.D.

"We've been hearing about the Guard and Reserve coming home from serving their country, from having been in Iraq and harm's way, and not having a job, and this has concerned the senator," said press secretary Sarah Feinberg. "While a lot of employers are doing a lot ... one servicemember who loses his or her job is one too many."

The Labor Department published a draft of regulations in the Federal Register on Sept. 20. It will be open for public comment for 60 days; after which officials will consider the comments before implementing the final regulation.

Some of the proposed regulations further define discrimination and spell out burden of proof and protections afforded employers.

"These regulations will spell out the rights of our returning servicemen and women and the responsibilities of employers to honor their service," Labor Secretary Elaine Chao said in a statement. "This administration will back up these first-time-ever USERRA regulations with aggressive outreach and enforcement."

Compared to pre-global war on terror figures, the massive activation boosted the number of complaints filed to the Labor Department by 35 percent in fiscal 2002, and another 10 percent in fiscal 2003, with 1,195 and 1,315 complaints, respectively.

As of Thursday, a total of 427,305 guardsmen and reservists have been mobilized for war on terror since Sept. 11, 2001. Of that total, 164,095 are mobilized today.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@stripes.osd.mil
The regulation can be viewed and comments submitted by going to: www.regulations.gov and entering VETS-04 in the keyword section.

Brit held hostage said to be alive

By BETH GARDINER

The Associated Press

LONDON — The brother of Kenneth Alibi, a British hostage in Iraq, said Sunday he had been told the captive was still alive, a contention echoed by the leader of a London-based Islamic center.

Paul Bigley, speaking by video link to a gathering at the Brighton, England, conference of Prime Minister Tony Blair's Labour Party, said "I have received information this evening that Ken is alive."

He declined to say where the information came from, but said it gave him cause to hope.

Meanwhile, Yasser el-Sirri, head of the Islamic Observation Center, told The Associated Press his organization had issued an appeal on Thursday to the kidnappers, Tawhid and Jihad group, to free Kenneth Bigley after the British government rejected their demands.

"We have received a positive answer that the group will consider our appeal when they decide his fate and they confirmed that he is alive," said el-Sirri, whose organization is often a reliable source of information on Muslim militants.

Pressed on how he received the information on Bigley, el-Sirri would say only "through a mediator in Iraq."

The appeal asked the kidnappers to spare Bigley's life "after Blair and his government, America's fail, have betrayed him, forcing his family to issue an appeal to you to save his life."

Also, two Italian aid workers kidnapped in Iraq and once reported to have been killed are alive, Jordan's King Abdullah II said in an interview published Monday ahead of his visit to Italy to discuss the crisis.

Abdullah told the daily *Corriere della Sera* that Jordan was working with Italy to secure the release of Simona Fari and Simona Torretta, who were kidnapped in Baghdad on Sept. 7.

Game plan to address employment problems

Here is a "game plan" for Reserve or National Guard members who are having mobilization-related problems with their regular employer. Lt. Cmdr. Mark Shelley, ombudsman for the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve in Arlington, Va., wrote this guide.

1. Go to your company's human resources or personnel department. These people are more familiar with the law than first-line supervisors. Once the human resources manager knows you are having a problem, he or she can often resolve it with one or two phone calls.

*If you work for an organization that does not have a human resources point of contact; or if that individual can't or won't help you; or if you are already in the field, go to:

2. Your unit's commanding officer. Any

CO of the Guard or Reserve has the responsibility to help his or her people with employment crises, questions or disputes.

*If your CO can't help you, or if you are the commanding officer who needs guidance to help one of your unit's members, go to:

3. Your local representative of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. To find that person, go to www.esgr.org, which lists contacts by state. If you do not have access to the Internet, call ESGR's national headquarters (800) 336-4590. An ESGR representative will tell you where to contact in your home state.

*If ESGR's state and national network of professional advisers, mediators and "Mission One" volunteers can't get results, they will then recommend your case to:

4. The Department of Labor's Veterans'

Employment Training Service, Division of Enforcement. The Labor Department, backed by the Justice Department, is authorized to take legal action against employers violating the laws that protect activated Guard and Reserve members. If your employer is breaking the law, they will bring the full weight of the U.S. government to bear on your case.

*If you are not happy with the results of the Labor Department's intervention, the final resort is to:

5. Hire a private attorney at your own expense. Not often, but sometimes, employers are able to make a legally defensible case to the Labor Department that justifies their failure to reinstate Guard or Reserve employees after a call-up. If the decision does not go in your favor, your last recourse is a civil lawsuit.

— Lisa Burgess



People stand on the rubble of destroyed houses in Fallujah, Iraq, on Saturday, site of several U.S. airstrikes to target the city, which U.S. military officials say have killed more than 100 insurgents this month.

AP

Fallujah strikes take toll on terror

BY JIM KRANE

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A month of U.S. airstrikes on rebel-held Fallujah has killed more than 100 suspected insurgents, taking a heavy toll on the terror network of Jordanian Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, senior U.S. military officials said on Sunday.

The strikes have stopped attacks elsewhere in Iraq while setting off deadly feuds among insurgent groups holed up in the city west of Baghdad, said Air Force Brig. Gen. Ery Lessel, deputy operations director for U.S.-led forces here.

"We're confident that, through these airstrikes, we have been able to thwart many large-scale attacks and suicide bombings that were in the planning process," Lessel said in a briefing with reporters. "We've gotten some of his associates and emerging leadership in his organization."

The airstrikes have not, however, halted a record number of car bombings this month, mainly in Baghdad and nearby Sunni Muslim majority cities. With a twin car bombing outside an Iraqi national guard base that wounded U.S. and Iraqi troops Sunday, at least 34 suicide car bombings have been launched in September.

U.S. and Iraqi officials regularly blame al-Zarqawi's network for the deadliest of the bombings plaguing Iraq. The Jordanian also is thought to lead the Tawhid and Jihad group that has claimed responsibility for abducting dozens of the 140 foreigners kidnapped in Iraq, and killing many of them, including two American civil engineers beheaded last week.

For the past few weeks, U.S. airstrikes have pounded suspected insurgent safe houses in Fallujah on an almost nightly basis.

Witnesses and hospital officials have disputed U.S. military accounts of the bombings, reporting that dozens of noncombatants, including women and children, have been killed or wounded in the strikes.

On Saturday night, U.S. warplanes, tanks and artillery leveled two buildings and a cluster of rebel-built fortifications in Fallujah. The U.S. military believed the buildings were the site of a meeting of members of al-Zarqawi's group. Doctors said 16 people were killed and 37 wounded in the attack.

"We can't with 100 percent certainty say that we haven't killed any civilians," Lessel said.

The success of the attacks can be seen in reports of infighting among members of al-Zarqawi's network and allies in criminal gangs and other groups inside the city, the officials said, noting that guerrilla leaders were executing those suspected of giving intelligence to the Americans.

Iraqis get crafty in finding ways to register voters

BY HAMZA HENDAWI

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — With security a paramount concern for Iraq's January vote, authorities have had to be creative in devising a way to register voters. They've used a Saddam Hussein-era data base for food rationing to create an initial voter roll, the top U.N. election expert in Iraq said Sunday.

The second stage of the process, said Carlos Valenzuela, will begin in November when household heads are due to collect their new 2005 ration cards from 548 distribution centers around the country.

Voter registration clerks will be waiting for them, handing each one a sheet of information containing details on his or her family.

Amendments will be made if inaccuracies or omissions are found and the roster will be changed accordingly. The modified voter lists will then be exhibited publicly in mid-January.

While less than ideal and not entirely risk-free, this method significantly reduces the danger of the process being disrupted by violence. It also provides a convincing cover for Iraqis who wish to vote but are afraid of being targeted by insurgents opposed to the government and fighting to drive out American and other foreign troops from Iraq.

"Instead of having 9,000 voter registration centers opened throughout Iraq for eight or 10 weeks, you are talking about nearly 550 centers open for six weeks and not everyone has to go," Valenzuela told The Associated Press in an interview.

The search for an alternative method to register voters also was necessitated by the relatively short time in which preparations for the January vote had to be completed. The time limit also was a factor in the decision to use ration cards, which may not be able to vote, according to Valenzuela.

The much bigger task, however, will be to provide security on voting day — no later than Jan. 31 — when about 13 million Iraqis will head to an estimated 20,000 polling stations to elect a 275-seat parliament.

Iraq's food ration system was created in the aftermath of U.N. sanctions slapped on this Arab nation when it invaded Kuwait in 1990. The Ministry of Trade issued the cards in the name of household heads, but contain details of each member of the family.

Baghdad, a city in trauma, says 'enough is enough'

Residents exploring new ways to cope with unrest, violence

BY HAMZA HENDAWI

The Associated Press

In an outdoor food market under the fierce midday sun, a crowd of men and boys were watching video footage of a truck bomber seated behind the steering wheel, smiling and murmuring his last words before crashing into U.S. military vehicles on an overpass.

Elsewhere, the TV set in a coffee shop was offering customers the video of foreign hostages being beheaded.

In a city battered and traumatized by 17 months of violence that seems to grow worse by the day, real-life horror has become the viewing fare of choice, supplanting the explosion of pornography that filled the post-Saddam Hussein vacuum.

Baghdad wakes up each day to explosions, gunfire, ambulance sirens and the clatter of low-flying American helicopters. But the ferocity of this month's violence in the heart of the Iraqi capital is unprecedented — fierce gunbattles, car bombings that claim dozens of lives, brazen kidnappings, assassinations and barrages of mortars and rockets.

It threatens to destroy what's left of peoples' hopes for their country, which ran so high when the hated Saddam was toppled.

The horrifying videos on display or sold for as little as 30 cents apiece are all over Baghdad these days.

"Soon after the regime fell, porno discs were all the rage," said Attallah Zeidan, a co-owner of a secondhand bookshop in Baghdad's Old City. "Now it's beheadings."

Before the suicide mission footage, the crowd in the Bab al-Mozam market watched footage of half-buried human skeletons and a man using a stick to better display the



People wait for passports outside a Baghdad government office Thursday. The worsening situation in Baghdad is threatening what's left of peoples' hopes for Iraq, and many want to reserve the option of leaving.

AP

skulls. The background music was a folk song praising the insurgents fighting the Americans in Fallujah.

"We have seen everything. What else is there?" Imad Qassim Jaweed, 30, said despairingly as he stood in line

outside a passport office in the city center, shielding his head from the sun with a sheaf of application papers.

"Rich Iraqis can leave and live abroad, but most of us want a passport just in case," he said.

The Arabic expression "Khalas maleina!" or "enough is enough" is heard everywhere.

"We are paying a lot of sacrifices. We are suffering a lot in Iraq," interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said Sunday on the American network ABC. Still, he gave reporters an upbeat assessment two days later.

"We are winning, defeating terrorists in Iraq. Unfortunately the media have not been covering these significant gains in Iraq," he said.

And Iraqis aren't seeing them. Concrete blast barriers, barbed wire, sandbags, watch towers and thousands of armed guards make Baghdad look like a city under siege.

Body searches, alien to this conservative and proud people, are now routine even when visiting a hospital patient.

At U.S. military installations, signs in English and Arabic warn that "Use of deadly force is authorized." On the east bank of the Tigris River, across from where U.S. diplomats and Iraq's Cabinet ministers work, a "no swimming" sign denies Iraqis relief from the heat.

Underlining the hair-trigger atmosphere are the guns constantly pointed at the public by American soldiers in Humvees or Westerners' bodyguards in SUVs as they navigate through the gridlock. This sense — that foreigners rule them and that death may be a heartbeat away — accentuates the average Baghdad's sense of helplessness.

Still, the city's spirit isn't completely broken.

Ismael Ibrahim's DVD rental store in Sadr City, a Shiite district that is home to 2 million people, skips the gory video in favor of Egyptian romantic comedies and action movies from India and Hollywood.

"We are not dying and being killed," said Ibrahim, 30. "There is fighting almost every night here and people rent these movies to help take their minds off the misery around them."

WWII, Saddam legacies litter old air base

Built by the United Kingdom in the 1930s, compound has had many lives

BY SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

CAMP HABBANYAH, Iraq — Second Infantry Division soldiers living at this sprawling base west of Baghdad could be excused for imagining they are fighting one of yesterday's wars.

The base is made up of hundreds of slant-roofed, brick hangars, barracks and houses built by the United Kingdom in the 1930s, when it was the British Empire's most important military base in Iraq.

The U.S. soldiers now here, from the 2nd Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team (Strike Force), eat in a building that was once an air force mechanics' workshop. The building has its original circa-1930 metal sliding doors, ceiling and light fixtures, giving chow a distinctly World War II flavor.

It seems appropriate, since Habbaniyah was the site of one of the most important — but little known — battles of World War II. In May 1941, the Iraqi army and air force, which had allied with Germany, besieged the base in an effort to cut off Iraq's supply of oil to the Allies.

According to habbaniyah.org, the British were outnumbered and outgunned, but destroyed the Iraqi air force, mostly on the ground, then bombed the surrounding Iraqi guns and tanks until they were no longer a threat.

The RAF maintained a presence at Habbaniyah until 1959, when it was forced to leave after the Iraqi revolution of 1958. Today, several WWII-era British guns still stand at the base.

There are plenty of reminders of the former British presence at Camp Habbaniyah, known as Junction City by 1st Infantry Division soldiers who lived there earlier this year. The most obvious legacies are the thousands of trees and plants that make the base an oasis of green surrounded by an inhospitable and seemingly limitless expanse of desert.

A walk around the camp reveals that much of the British infrastructure was used by the Iraqis until they were driven out by last year's invasion by the coalition.

Everywhere you look, there are antique vehicles and machinery. The old telephone exchange, now a jumble of tangled wires, is where local fishermen store a pair of wooden canoes. And rusting red buckets hang among the cobwebs in the old fire station.

The two movie theaters, one indoor and one outdoor, were once able to cater to hundreds of patrons. The seats from the indoor theater have been kicked over and broken and tall trees have grown up in front of the outdoor projection booth, while a pair of projectors still stand. The walls of the indoor theater are decorated with murals depicting the prowess of the Iraqi military and the death of the ruler of Iran, his head tattooed with a Star of David as he sinks into a hole in the ground.

Nearby, the Anglican Church has been converted into a mosque and the British servicemen's cemetery, which includes numerous WWII graves, has been vandalized to obliterate Christian symbols.

There are literally hundreds, if not thousands of buildings at Camp Habbaniyah and most of them are vacant.

Inside one, paperwork lies scattered on the floor — photographs of Iraqi air force officers and notebooks filled with Arabic script. In other rooms, retreating Iraqi men and soldiers had hastily stripped off their uniforms: shirts, pants, gas masks, and helmets litter the floor.

Other buildings are packed with thousands of gray wooden crates containing un-



PHOTOS BY SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

Camp Habbaniyah, Iraq, is a former WWII British air base that has had many uses, including as a party palace by Saddam and his sons. The site is an oasis of green surrounded by a vast, inhospitable desert.



Trainee doctor Ali Gabar, who serves food in the mess hall, stands in front of a house formerly used by Saddam Hussein. Gabar said he used to clean the house before the 2003 U.S. invasion.

used aircraft parts including wheels, glass canopies, jet engines, flight suits, radios and various other items. There are larger wooden crates, some the size of rail cars, containing jet engines. One has a pair of wings inside it.

There are eight large hangars along the airstrip, each the size of a football field. The Army is using them to store M1A1 Abrams tanks, Bradley fighting vehicles and Humvees. The old control tower, still standing midway up the runway, is now a company headquarters.

Several Iraqis who worked at the base before the Americans took over are now employed by the U.S. Army. Ali Gabar, who serves food in the mess hall and is in training to become a doctor, said he used to clean Saddam Hussein's house at Camp Habbaniyah before the war.

Gabar remembers when water trucks would drive around the base irrigating the plants on the side of the road, then drive around the soccer field to water the pitch, which was covered in grass. The young man used to play soccer there every day with Iraqi air force officers, he said.



Iraqi army helmets, gas masks and uniforms litter the grounds of Camp Habbaniyah.



The houses and barracks close to the Camp Habbaniyah airstrip are full of aircraft parts that Iraqis apparently tried to hide from coalition bombers last year.

"Now they have all gone away and I am the only one left," he said.

The road to Saddam's house is marked by a traffic island with a pink-blossomed bush and an attractive light stand in the middle of it. Halfway up the street stands a pair of stone lions with missing heads. The lions flank a stone path leading into a small park with fountains, a goldfish pond, grape vines and numerous unusual trees and shrubs.

Saddam's house, at the end of the street,

is a two-story mansion with a large Iraqi flag painted above the front door. Inside, there are two courtyards and dozens of rooms.

Before the war, the house was filled with fine furniture, televisions and all sorts of items, but they were removed by the fleeing inhabitants as the Americans approached, Gabar said, standing in a room littered with smashed glass and broken masonry.

E-mail Seth Robson at: robson@spjpress.osd.mil

Philippines makes evacuation plans

About 4,300 Filipino migrant workers still at U.S. camps in Iraq

The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine government is preparing contingency plans to evacuate more than 4,000 citizens working in Iraq if violence escalates ahead of U.S. and British elections, the labor secretary said Sunday.

Some 4,300 migrant workers have been sent to venture out of the U.S. camps where they are based.

The government will distribute booklets to the workers explaining what to do in case of direct attacks on the bases.

Acknowledging the danger of traveling by land and air in Iraq, Labor Secretary Patricia Santo Tomas said the government was drawing up evacuation plans.

She did not elaborate.

Violence has intensified in the past few months in Iraq, where near daily bombings take place and dozens of foreigners have been kidnapped, with some being killed.

In July, a Filipino truck driver was taken hostage in Iraq, forcing Manila to withdraw its small peacekeeping force to save his life.

The troop pullout was strongly criticized by the United States and its key allies.

Santo Tomas cited Roy Cimatu, a former military chief of staff now overseeing the safety of Filipinos in Iraq, as saying he expects Iraqi insurgents to step up attacks ahead of U.S. elections in November and polls in Britain expected next year.

The militants "would like to embarrass the governments in those two countries," Santo Tomas said.

Officials also expect a surge in violence ahead of Iraqi elections in January.

Santo Tomas said she hoped the warnings of intensified violence would deter other Filipinos from seeking work in Iraq.

British soldier appears in court

The Associated Press

LONDON — A British soldier charged with murdering a civilian in Iraq appeared briefly in a civilian court Monday.

Trooper Kevin Williams, a member of the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment, is charged with murdering Hassan Said in Ad Dayr, near the city of Basra in southern Iraq, on Aug. 3, 2003.

Williams, 21, appeared at the Old Bailey court and was ordered to remain free on bail until the next hearing, slated for Oct. 25.

He said nothing apart from acknowledging his name.

Williams was charged in a civilian court earlier this month after his commanding officer blocked a court-martial.

Britain's domestic news agency, the Press Association, reported that Williams was allegedly part of a patrol that had stopped a truck suspected of carrying weapons in Ad Dayr.

Dutch servicemember pleads innocent in Iraqi's death

BY ANTHONY DEUTSCH

The Associated Press

ARNHEM, Netherlands — A Dutch officer pleaded innocent Monday to charges of negligence and excessive use of force in the fatal shooting of an Iraqi civilian, in the first court-martial of a Dutch serviceman in Iraq.

Sgt. Maj. Eric Jan Overvoorde, 43, said he fired two warning shots — one in the air and one at the ground — when he believed the lives of his men were endangered by a group of Iraqis. One of the shots, fired from a distance of 75-100 yards, is believed to have killed an Iraqi man.

Overvoorde faces charges of violating the

rules of engagement, endangering the lives of others, excessive use of force and negligence leading to the death of the Iraqi civilian. The court-martial is scheduled to last three days. He pleaded innocent to all charges and contested that he had killed the victim. "He was alive when I saw him being taken away," he said.

At times holding back tears, Overvoorde told a panel of two civilian judges and a uniformed military officer during intense questioning that he fired the shots to keep back a group of some 100-200 Iraqis who had gathered near a container that had fallen off an American convoy in December.

Overvoorde and 14 other Dutch troops were ordered to secure the cargo.

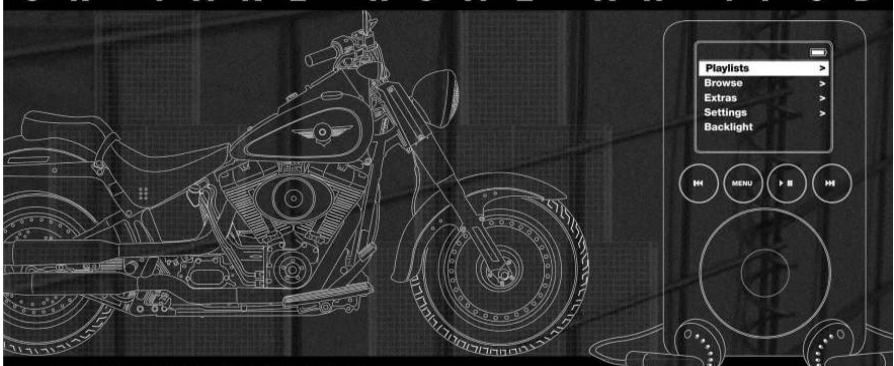
"The situation was on the verge of getting out of control," the defendant told the tribunal. "I did what I did because the situation we were in could have become life-threatening for my men."

Overvoorde said he "weighed the situation carefully" before firing his weapon and that he would do the same thing now "despite all that has happened."

"It was supposed to hit the ground to the left in front of the group," he said. "I didn't have anyone in my sights."

Overvoorde said he had been unable to radio for backup because of communications problems and feared the "situation was about to go from bad to worse."

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IN THE STATES

Jeanne heads north; at least 6 dead in Fla.

BY MIKE SCHNEIDER

The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Fla. — Hurricane Jeanne tore a fresh path of destruction as it marched up storm-ravaged Florida. The fourth hurricane in six weeks took down much of the state and prompted recovery plans on a scale never before seen in the nation.

At least six people died in the storm as it plowed across Florida's midsection in a virtual rerun for many residents still trying to regroup from hurricanes that have crisscrossed the Southeast since mid-August.

"This is the price we pay for living in paradise," said Phyllis Cole, laughing at her predicament as she waited along with about a dozen others Monday on a promise that a Home Depot store in Stuart would reopen. Everyone wanted the same thing: a generator.

None were in stock, but the manager thought some were on the way.

Jeanne came ashore around midnight Saturday with 120 mph wind, striking the same area hit three weeks ago by Hurricane Frances and rocketing debris scattered by earlier storms. Roofs were torn off, stop lights dangled precariously and bridges were flooded from the mainland to barrier islands. About 2.6 million homes and businesses were without power.

"We have some people in Florida who have been hit two or three times now by these hurricanes. They have to be miserable right now," Federal Emergency Management Agency director Mike Brown told "The Early Show" on CBS.

Jeanne had moved east of the Panhandle and remained at barely tropical storm strength as its center moved over Georgia late Monday morning. It was expected to weaken into a tropical depression later in the day.

Frustration was obvious Monday. Nicole Jillard and Ed Holzer waited 20 minutes in their car with their 3- and 1-year-old children for two bags of ice, a case of bottled water and 12 Meals, Ready to Eat at a Kmart parking lot in Stuart.

The drive-up service provided by the National



Betty Kaluski of Sebastian, Fla., searches for mementos of her great granddaughter Monday. Her garage and porch were destroyed three weeks ago when Hurricane Frances made landfall and the rest of her home was destroyed by Hurricane Jeanne.

Guard attracted a line of cars stretching to least a half-mile down U.S. 1, the coastal city's main thoroughfare.

"This is not good," Holzer said. "We don't have enough money to keep running to places like Fort Myers for food and water."

U.N. rushes peacekeepers to Haiti to control unrest

BY PAISLEY DODDS

The Associated Press

GONAIVES, Haiti — U.N. peacekeepers rushed to this storm-ravaged city and guarded the entrance Monday against looters stealing food aid while military doctors performed operations in primitive conditions. Hundreds of weary survivors, after a miserable night spent out in the rain, lined up for food before daybreak.

Among patients treated at a makeshift clinic were 30 with gunshot wounds they said they received in fights over food, said New York City Dr. Jean-Claude Kompas.

The Brazilian general in charge of the U.N. force said Monday he needs more than twice the 3,000 peacekeepers in place in Haiti, and that they were getting little local help in the town which Tropical Storm Jeanne swamped with torrential rains that turned roads into rivers and mudslides that collapsed homes. At least 1,500 were killed and some 300,000 are homeless, 200,000 of them in Gonaives.

"If we had help from the National Police of Haiti, we could be very increase the aid distribution points," Gen. Augusto Heleno Ribeiro Pereira said in a telephone interview on Monday.

Nevertheless, he said the num-

ber of food distribution places increased from two to four on Monday.

He said many people were suffering from diarrhea while others, many children, had infected wounds. Some had contracted gangrene and at least three amputations had been performed under primitive conditions, he said. Most injuries being treated are gashes from collapsing roofs or pieces of zinc roof hidden by the mud that still covers the city, where most survivors walk barefoot.

Anne Poulsen of the U.N. World Food Program said relief agencies were working around the clock trying to get food to victims, even using donkeys.

When trucks carrying 8 tons of food from Cap-Haitien — the port to the north — were blocked by mudslides, "we unloaded the food from trucks and put it on to donkeys and mules to reach localities ... where people had not eaten for a week" since the storm's passage, Poulsen said.

WFP and CARE International distributed 120 tons of food in the past three days — enough to feed 48,000 families for one day, she said.

Planeloads of aid have arrived in Port-au-Prince, the capital, but getting it to Gonaives is a nine-hour nightmare drive.

U.S. citizen deported to Saudi Arabia as enemy combatant

BY SONJA BARISIC

The Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. — A U.S. citizen held since late 2001 as an enemy combatant is to be sent to Saudi Arabia by Thursday under an agreement made public Monday.

Yaser Esam Hamdi must give up his U.S. citizenship and renounce terrorism under the agreement, which includes a number of other restrictions.

Hamdi, whose case led to a U.S. Su-

preme Court decision limiting the president's powers to indefinitely hold wartime combatants, has been held without charges and will not be charged with any crime.

The four-page agreement was filed late Friday in U.S. District Court in Norfolk, along with a request by Hamdi's lawyer and the federal government to stay any court proceedings in the case until Oct. 1 so the agreement may be carried out.

Hamdi was being held in a Navy brig in Charleston, S.C. Justice Department officials said Monday they did not have im-

mune information on when Hamdi would be released.

Hamdi was born in Baton Rouge, La., in 1980 to Saudi parents.

The plan is for the Defense Department to fly Hamdi to Saudi Arabia, where he was raised, on a military plane, officials said.

Hamdi's lawyer, federal public defender Frank Dunham Jr., did not immediately return a telephone call seeking comment Monday.

Under the agreement, Hamdi must live

in Saudi Arabia for five years and not travel outside that country during that time.

The agreement negotiated by Dunham and the Justice Department forbids Hamdi from traveling to Afghanistan, Iraq, Israel, Pakistan, Syria, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Hamdi also agreed not to travel to the United States for 10 years.

After that, he must get permission from the U.S. secretaries for defense and homeland security before initiating travel to the United States.

Former Mass. bishop indicted on child sex charges

BY ADAM GORLICK

The Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — Bishop Thomas Dupe, the former head of the Springfield Diocese, was indicted Monday on child rape charges, accused of molesting two boys in the 1970s, the county prosecutor said.

He becomes the first Roman Catholic prelate indicted in the sexual abuse scandal within the American church.

Dupe, 70, resigned Feb. 11 after nine years as head of the diocese, one day after The Republican newspaper of Springfield confronted him with allegations he abused two boys while he was a parish priest. Dupe cited health

reasons for his departure. He retains the title of bishop.

The indictment was announced by Hampden County District Attorney William Bennett.

Dupe's lawyer, Michael Jennings, said not immediately.

return a call for comment. Mark Dupont, a spokesman for the Diocese of Springfield, said Dupe's successor, Bishop Timothy McDonnell, would have no immedi-

ate comment. McDonnell took over the diocese in April with a promise to heal the wounds inflicted by the sex abuse scandal.

There have been at least a dozen grand jury investigations involving how bishops dealt with abuse claims, and four other U.S. bishops have resigned after being accused of sexual misconduct.

Dupe's alleged victims, who also are suing the cleric and the diocese, have said Dupe sexually abused them for years and asked them to keep quiet about the abuse when he was made auxiliary bishop in 1990. He became bishop in 1995.

When he announced he was bringing the case to a grand jury, Bennett initially said the statute of limitations on the alleged abuse

had likely expired. But Bennett later said charges were possible because Dupe allegedly tried to conceal the abuse recently.

After his retirement, Dupe went to St. Luke Institute, a private Catholic psychiatric hospital in Maryland where the Boston Archdiocese sent many priests for treatment after sexual abuse allegations were made against them.

One of the men, who immigrated to America in 1975, said the abuse began when he was 12 after his family was befriended by Dupe. The man claimed the abuse lasted until he began dating a girl in high school. Dupe is then accused of starting to abuse the other boy. The second victim says he was abused until he was about 20.

Fingerprinting visitors

WASHINGTON — Beginning Thursday, foreign visitors from 27 countries will be fingerprinted and photographed when they enter the United States, according to the Homeland Security Department.

Until now, citizens of 22 European countries — along with Australia, Brunei, Japan, New Zealand and Singapore — haven't had to undergo such screening because they can travel to the United States without a visa.

Since January, most foreign visitors who travel with a visa have had to be photographed and fingerprinted under the US-VISIT program when they arrive at 115 major airports and 14 major seaports. The information is checked against databases to verify documents.

— The Associated Press

Campaigns rev up for first debate

BY DEB RIECHMANN
The Associated Press

CRAWFORD, Texas — It's a classic pre-debate dance, maybe as important as the matchup itself: lower expectations for your candidate's performance and jab the other guy while you're at it.

While President Bush and Democrat Sen. John Kerry remained secluded half a country apart on Sunday in preparation for their prime-time showdown, representatives for each side employed their own double-barreled debate strategy.

In central Texas, where the president spent about four hours at his ranch preparing for the debate, White House communications director Dan Bartlett called Kerry a seasoned debater against whom Bush would merely "hold his own." But then Bartlett accused Kerry of taking more than one position on foreign policy issues — the subject of the first debate.

In Washington, Democratic National Committee Chairman Terry McAuliffe called Bush a "great debater," but then added that the president wins matchups on "style not substance."

Bush practiced a couple of hours Sunday and then another two hours Sunday. Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., played Kerry. Marc McKinnon, media adviser to the Bush-Cheney campaign, was the moderator.

Low-balling expectations, Bartlett said the White House was expecting 90 minutes of attacks from Kerry at the first of three presidential debates Thursday night in Coral Gables, Fla.

"Senator Kerry has been preparing his whole life for this moment," Bartlett said. "He was an all-star debater in prep school and an all-star debater in Ivy League. He was 20 years in the most august debating society in years, the United States Senate."

New Bush ad attacks Kerry on Iraq

BY JENNIFER LOVEN
The Associated Press

CRAWFORD, Texas — President Bush's campaign, setting the stage for the first presidential debate later this week on foreign policy, rolled out a new television ad Monday highlighting Democratic Sen. John Kerry's statements on the Iraq war.

"How can John Kerry protect us when he doesn't even know where he stands," the ad asks. It shows quick clips of the Democrat commenting on the war, including "the winning of the war was brilliant," and "It's the wrong war, in the wrong place, at the wrong time."

However, the quotes lack context and are partial in many cases.

The Bush campaign is trying to portray Kerry as an indecisive candidate who shouldn't be trusted to serve as commander in chief.

Both Bush and Kerry spent the weekend preparing for their first of three head-to-head pre-election debates, slated for Thursday.

"Will President Bush step on his own line and maybe not pronounce a word right? I bet he will. But, I think after the 90 minutes, there won't be any ambiguity on his positions."

In a conference call with reporters Sunday, Democratic chairman McAuliffe recalled Bush's 2000 debate against Democrat Al Gore.

"George Bush defied expectations and won," McAuliffe said, praising the president. "Let's face it, George Bush is a great debater."

Then the jab: "He wins them on style not substance, and he wins them because he isn't always honest. The truth is George Bush has historically had problems being forthright at debates."

He cited examples from the 2000 debates in which Bush expressed concern about overcommitting the U.S. military around the world.

"As we know, he has over-stretched our military now to dangerous levels," McAuliffe said.

On Monday, the president was taking a break from debate preparations at his central Texas ranch to return to Ohio for the 26th visit of his presidency after an absence of little less than two weeks. He's due back again Saturday.

On his return visit, Bush will address the National Association of Home Builders in Columbus, then travel by bus north to Mansfield and Akron.

Ohio, along with Florida, is Kerry's biggest and best opportunity to dent Bush's advantage in the drive to amass the needed 270 electoral votes. Ohio provides 20 of those votes.

The state's unemployment rate has risen to 6.3 percent and nearly 240,000 jobs have been lost since Bush took office in January 2001.

Both sides know the stakes of the debates, four in all through Oct. 13, including one between Vice President Dick Cheney and Democratic opponent Sen. John Edwards. A recent national poll found that nearly one-third of those questioned thought the debates would help them decide who to vote.



AP photos

President Bush salutes Air Force One in Waco, Texas. Bush will campaign in Ohio before returning to his Crawford, Texas, ranch to prepare for Thursday's debate.

Kerry took his own swing at Bush on Sunday for pronouncing the Iraqi mission accomplished while the monthly death toll mounts.

Defending his actions, Bush said in an interview with the Fox News Channel's Bill O'Reilly to be broadcast Monday that he would not back down from declaring, on May 1, 2003, that major combat operations had ended as he stood under a "Mission Accomplished" banner on an aircraft carrier.

Kerry, arriving Sunday at a resort near Madison, Wis., to practice for the debate, replied, "I will get the mission accomplished."

The Massachusetts senator, who had a practice debate with friend Greg Craig earlier this month in Boston, was taking time Monday to attend a town hall-style meeting with Wisconsin voters.

Mary Dylampte of The Associated Press contributed to this report.



Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., shakes hands Sunday with Kytte Little, 4, and her parents, Renee, left, and Randy, during an unscheduled stop inside Schubert's Restaurant and Bakery in Mount Horeb, Wis.

Editor's note: Three times a week, The Associated Press picks an issue and asks the Democratic and Republican presidential candidates a question about it.

On the issues

Should girls be required to tell parents before having an abortion?

President Bush



Parents should have the right to be involved in any major medical decision affecting their minor daughter. When young girls who are still legally minors find themselves in difficult situations regarding pregnancy, they may be easily influenced into making

harmful and even dangerous choices. We need to protect the health and safety of our young women by ensuring that they have appropriate guidance from responsible adults. I will continue to support parental notification laws so that parents are involved in the decisions of their minor daughters.

Sen. John Kerry



"Like any parent, I believe that parents should be fully involved in all decisions regarding their children. But we also have to take into account possible family dysfunction, including abuse or incest. I will not force a girl who

has been abused by a family member to ask the rapist for permission in making a difficult and heart-wrenching choice. Too many proposed laws have failed to include common sense 'bypass' provisions to protect the victims of these brutal and unspeakable crimes."

AP

Aggressive efforts launched to counter election terror threat

BY DAN EGGEN
AND SPENCER S. HSU

The Washington Post

Agencies across the federal government are launching an aggressive and unusually open offensive aimed at thwarting terrorist plots before and during the presidential inauguration in November.

Numerous law enforcement and counterterrorism officials also warned last week that a heightened threat of terrorist attack will persist through the January inauguration.

The government's strategy will include heavy surveillance by the FBI, increased checks of terrorism watch lists by local police and heightened security at polling places on Nov. 2, officials said. At the U.S. Capitol, Police Chief Terrence W. Gainer has ordered a number of his officers to wear sophisticated new equipment to protect them from a biological or chemical attack.

Counterterrorism officials concede they do not have new or specific intelligence outlining plans for an attack, but they say they remain alarmed by indications that al-Qaida and other terror groups might seek to influence U.S. elections as they did in Spain last spring by setting off bombs on commuter trains in Madrid. By publicizing the government's disruption efforts, which will begin in earnest later this week, authorities say they hope to forestall any plans for similar attacks here.

The FBI, which is sharply limiting personal leave and transferring hundreds of agents to the effort, will focus heavily on individuals within the United States who are suspected of having ties to al-Qaida and other terrorist groups or who sympathize with their causes, according to officials who have been briefed on the plans.

Officials said the FBI's tactics,

which will be outlined in an electronic communication to be sent to field offices this week, will include aggressive and often overt surveillance, widespread interviews and, in some cases, arrests. Local police will be urged to run the names of suspicious people through the federal government's terrorism watch list, even during traffic stops and other minor encounters.

"We are always asking ourselves a critical question: Have we done everything we can to thwart the next attack?" said Michael A. Mason, who heads the FBI's Washington field office. "We ask ourselves that every day."

The warnings are reminiscent of those this summer when officials expressed extreme concern about the potential for terror attacks on the Republican and Democratic national conventions and at the Olympic Games in Athens. Those events passed without any known disruption.

IN THE WORLD

Wall at Dubai airport falls, kills at least 8

BY RAWYA RAGEH

The Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — A wall collapsed at an airport construction site Monday, killing more than eight workers and injuring many more, a contractor said.

Workers at Dubai airport said they saw up to 40 casualties being taken away, but the toll could not be immediately confirmed. The airport issued a lower casualty toll, saying in a statement that five workers were killed and 12 were injured. It did not give the extent of the injuries.

"At least eight people were killed on the spot, and some died in (the) hospital, but we don't know how many," said an official of Al-Naboodah Contracting Co.,

the main contractor at the site. He spoke on condition of anonymity.

A large partition in a building under construction collapsed, the contractor said. About 150 workers were on the site when the partition fell at 11 a.m.

"The wall fell down, and we all ran to help, but there wasn't anything we could do," said worker Duljinder Singh. "Rescue teams were very late in coming. It took them maybe one hour to arrive."

"I saw many, many of my colleagues being taken away," another worker said, before he was told to be quiet by a supervisor.

Other workers put the casualties at about 40, saying most were injured. They spoke on condition of anonymity. Police said there were casualties, but they did not know how many.

The Dubai facility, which bills itself as "the world's fastest growing airport," is being upgraded and expanded in a program costing \$4.1 billion. The airport caters for 22 million passengers a year, and the expansion aims to boost capacity to 60 million passengers a year when it is completed in 2018.

The design consultant for the Terminal 3 construction is Aéroports de Paris International, according to the airport's official web site. The French firm also operates Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris, where part of a terminal collapsed in May, killing four people.

"This wall has nothing to do with Aéroports de Paris," said spokesman Matthieu Monnet in Paris. "It was designed and built by another company."



A wall collapsed at the Dubai Airport's new terminal construction site killing more than eight workers and injuring many others on Monday.



Troops of Pakistan rangers arrive at a hide-out of a suspected top al-Qaida operative in Nawabshah, about 125 miles northeast of Karachi, Pakistan, on Monday.

Pakistan nabs more suspected terrorists; Karachi on 'red alert'

BY ZARAR KHAN

The Associated Press

KARACHI, Pakistan — Police stepped up patrols around foreign consulates and government offices in this volatile city Monday, fearing a backlash after Pakistani forces killed a suspected top al-Qaida operative wanted for his alleged role in the 2002 kidnapping and beheading of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl.

Anjad Hussain Farooqi, also accused in two attempts on the life of President Gen. Pervez Musharraf in December 2003, died in a four-hour shootout Sunday at a house in the southern town of Nawabshah. Two or three other men, one of them an Islamic cleric, were arrested. Like Farooqi, they are all Pakistanis.

Authorities label the operation as a breakthrough.

"We eliminated one of the very major sources of terrorist attacks. He was not only involved on attacks on me but also on attacks elsewhere in the country. So a very big terrorist has been eliminated," Musharraf said in the Netherlands while en route home from addressing the United Nations General Assembly. "Together with him, there have been some other arrests, and we will get a lot of useful information leading to further arrests and eliminations, I am very sure," he said.

On Monday, the investigation expanded to include the arrest of three other suspected Islamic militants, all brothers, in Sukkur, a town not far from Nawabshah. One was identified as Khalid Ansari, alleged to have ties to the Sunni Muslim group Jaish-e-Mohammed.

A fourth Pakistani man was arrested in Mirpurkhas, a town in the region, said Syed Kamal Shah, the provincial police chief.

Fayyaz Leghari, deputy chief of police in Karachi, a hotbed for Islamic militants, said the city was on "red alert."

The U.S. Embassy in Islamabad issued a renewed travel warning, urging U.S. citizens in Pakistan not to venture out of major urban centers, saying embassy staff may not be able to help those that do.

In Washington, a U.S. official who described Farooqi as a key al-Qaida figure said the government could not yet confirm he had been killed but that it appeared to be the case. Pakistani officials said they were awaiting the results of DNA tests but had little doubt the body was that of Farooqi.

Israel threatens Syria, saying it aids terrorists

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — A senior Israeli defense official harshly threatened Syria on Monday, accusing President Bashar Assad of direct involvement in terrorism, but stopping short of confirming that Israel was responsible for killing a Hamas leader in Damascus.

Deputy Defense Minister Zeev Boim said the issue was not who killed Iz Eldine Subhi Sheikh Khalil in a car bomb in Damascus on Sunday, but rather Syria's deep involvement in terrorism.

"Syria is responsible for directing terrorism against us, and therefore it is not immune from our operations to prevent terrorism," Boim told Israel Radio. "This is a central thing that

needs to be said ... anyone who hurts Israel, anyone who takes part in terrorism that leads to murder and death ... of Israelis, he'll pay for it, and it doesn't matter if he operates in Israel or abroad," he added.

Boim described Syria as a "central intersection" of terrorism and Assad as the "traffic officer" directing the operations and harboring the groups.

Although Boim and other officials refused to confirm Israel's involvement in Sunday's car bombing, Israeli security officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, acknowledged Israel had a hand in the attack.

Israel stepped up security at its diplomatic missions as Hamas vowed revenge.

Leaders call to expand U.N. Security Council

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — One after another, world leaders and ministers called for expanding the powerful 15-nation Security Council, saying the modern world shouldn't be dominated by a few wealthy countries chosen in the aftermath of World War II.

Mexican Foreign Secretary Luis Ernesto Derbez said the founders of the United Nations could not have envisioned the terrorist attacks and other problems facing the international community. "Diplomats of this generation now have the obligation to envision a second phase, a new chapter on collective action so as to eradicate," modern threats he said.

Efforts to reform the United Nations and its main body have been under way for years and the debate isn't likely to end soon because of national rivalries and differences over key details, including veto power. But the issue came to the forefront of the 59th annual General Assembly session last week when Brazil, Germany, India and Japan

joined forces to press for permanent seats and said Africa should get one as well.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abdel Gheit said Muslims and Arabs have the right "to be represented in the Council on an equal basis with the representatives of other cultures and civilizations."

Only the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China currently have permanent Security Council seats and wield veto power, giving them effective say over the body's agenda.

The 10 other council members are chosen for two-year terms by regional groups.

The General Assembly, which is composed of representatives of the 191 member states, would have to decide whether to expand the Security Council.

Britain agreed Thursday the Security Council should be nearly doubled in size to 24 nations as its challenges have evolved to facing "terrorist organizations, failed states and from man-made shocks to our environment like climate change."

The Bush administration also has supported Security Council expansion.

Low-key events mark Taj Mahal's 350 years

BY MANISH SWARUP

The Associated Press

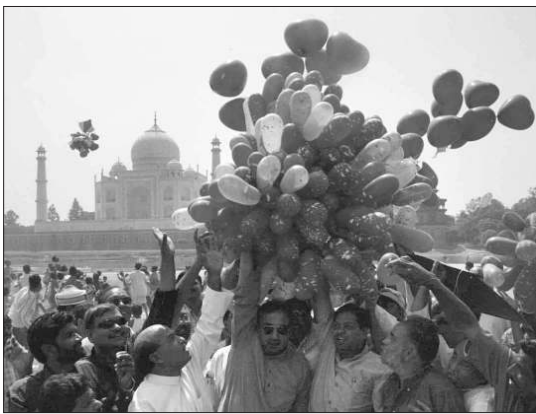
AGRA, India — The 350th anniversary celebration of the Taj Mahal, India's most famous monument, got off to a low-key start Monday with festivities limited to avoid marring the 17th-century marble tribute to love.

Local tourism officials placed marigold garlands around visitors' necks in the northern city of Agra, where the Taj Mahal is located — but some tourists were disappointed by the celebrations. "We were expecting all-night parties. But I don't see anything out here," said Alain Appel of Basel, Switzerland, viewing the tomb built in 1632 to about 1654 by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan as a monument to his favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal.

Kokab Hameed, tourism minister in the monument's home state of Uttar Pradesh, launched the festival by releasing colorful balloons and white doves. Only about 100 people, mostly school children, were there to watch.

Area residents milled around two actors, dressed as Shah Jahan and his wife, who sat on the bank of the nearby Jamuna River, gazing at the giant white tomb's elegant spires and minarets.

India's Supreme Court must approve activities at the World Heritage site, and has been reluctant to permit large-scale ceremonies since a 1996 concert by Greek musician Yanni brought complaints that the sound vibrations and



Government officials release balloons during the opening ceremony Monday of the 350th anniversary of the construction of the Taj Mahal, in the background, in Agra, India. The tomb was constructed from 1632 to 1654 by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan for his favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal.

floodlights had damaged the structure.

This time, musical celebrations were being held about 1.5 miles away at the Red Fort — also built during Shah Jahan's rule —

where Indian musician Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma and singer Harharan were set to perform at an evening concert.

State officials planned to issue a postage stamp honoring the

monument.

The celebrations suffered from poor planning and bureaucratic foot-dragging.

Uttar Pradesh officials had hoped the Supreme Court would

"We were expecting all-night parties. But I don't see anything out here."

Alain Appel

Tourist from Basel, Switzerland

approve a once-a-month night viewing by the time of the anniversary celebrations, but that decision was still pending on Monday.

Due to a mix-up between the state and federal governments, India's President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam declined an invitation to Monday night's concert at the Red Fort.

Anniversary events weren't published in newspapers, and the program was only finalized over the weekend.

Still, the state hopes the anniversary will boost tourism, which has been hit hard by a global travel downturn since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the United States, and fears in 2002 that India and neighboring Pakistan might go to war.

A total of 319,553 foreigners visited the Taj Mahal in 2003, a drop of more than 260,000 from 2001, said D.K. Barman, head of the state tourist office in Agra.

Deadly bus crash in Greece

ATHENS, Greece — A bus taking Greek high school students to watch the Paralympics smashed into a truck loaded with glass Monday, killing seven teenage passengers and injuring 30 other people, police said.

The crash prompted Paralympic organizers to cut back Tuesday's closing ceremony of the games, cancelling festive portions. Greek President Costis Stephanopoulos expressed his "deepest regret over this appalling accident."

The bus was carrying 37 students, four teachers and a driver, one of three buses loaded with students that left at dawn to watch the Paralympics, said Petros Hahopoulos, the principal of Farkadonia high school.

New premier tapped

BUDAPEST, Hungary — Hungary's President Ferenc Madl on Monday nominated the country's sports minister, Ferenc Gyurcsany, to form a new government.

The president nominated Gyurcsany in parliament a month after Prime Minister Peter Medgyessy was forced out by the governing coalition's loss of confidence in his leadership.

The governing Socialist Party had selected Gyurcsany, one of the country's wealthiest businessmen, as its candidate to succeed Medgyessy after the Aug. 26 resignation.

Approval of Gyurcsany appears certain, as the Alliance of Free Democrats, the Socialists' coalition partners, have said they also will support him.

Norway air traffic protest

OSLO, Norway — Air traffic over south-

ern Norway was halted Monday after dozens of air traffic controllers called in sick to protest plans to scale back the number of control centers and jobs in the country.

The controllers stopped working Monday morning after Avinor, the state-owned company in charge of air traffic control in the Scandinavian country of 4.6 million, decided to scale back the number of its control centers from four to two. Avinor also operates 46 airports in Norway.

Officials with the country's biggest airports, including Gardermoen International in the capital, Oslo, as well as airports in Torp, Sandefjord and Kjevik, said some flights were still landing, but none were taking off.

Flights in northern Norway were not affected, but officials warned of possible delays.

Gay marriage called 'a virus'

MADRID, Spain — Allowing gays to marry is like unleashing "a virus" in society, a senior Roman Catholic Church official said on Monday as Spain's Socialist government prepares to pass the measure as one of the boldest moves in its agenda for social reform.

Juan Antonio Martinez Camino, spokesman for the Spanish Bishops Conference, said the church had nothing against homosexuals but feels a union of two people of the same sex is not a marriage.

The Cabinet is expected Friday to pass a bill that would allow gay marriage. Doing so would create "a counterforce in the body of society," Martinez Camino said in an interview on Spanish National Television.

Such legislation, he said, is like "imposing a virus on society, something false that will have negative consequences for social life."

From The Associated Press

Britain to cut chocolate bars size in attempt to curb obesity

The Associated Press

LONDON — If you want to lose weight — eat less ... chocolate.

Britain's drive to reduce obesity now includes cutting larger chocolate bars down to size, the food and drink industry said Monday.

Reducing portion sizes is one of seven pledges set out in the first "Manifesto for Food and Health" published by Britain's Food and Drink Federation, which includes industry heavyweights Coca-Cola, Kellogg's, Kraft Foods, Nestle, Pepsi and Weatbix.

It has been under pressure from the government to promote healthy eating, and in particular to stop the aggressive marketing of sugary and fatty foods to children.

"The industry has always said it wants to be part of the solution on food and health," said a spokeswoman for the federation. "The manufacturing industry is already providing wider choice, changing the way it is marketing to children and changing its recipes."

The manifesto promises clearer food labeling that gives full nutritional information, including salt and its equivalents.

Members of the federation also promise to make their products healthier by reducing sugar, salt at fat levels and to look at reducing overall portion sizes.

Candy maker Cadbury Trebor Bassett says it will phase out king-size chocolate bars in 2005.

Vending machines will be removed from primary schools and members will tighten self-regulatory codes on advertising to children.

The British Heart Foundation says that in the past decade, the proportion of clinically obese adults has risen from 14 percent of the population to 22 percent. Some 22 percent of boys and 28 percent of girls are now considered overweight or obese. Statistics also show that 85 percent of men and 69 percent of women eat too much salt.

Critics said the industry plan does not go far enough.

"It's halfhearted, and the industry won't be able to claim it is behaving in a responsible way until it stops aggressive advertising of unhealthy foods to children," said a spokesman for food and farming group Sustain.

Others felt it went too far.

"Personal behavior is increasingly controlled by government commandments," complained a Daily Telegraph editorial Monday.

"Now one of the few remaining freedoms, the freedom to eat yourself stupid, is under threat."

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Germans right to pull out

I read with interest the Sept. 23 article "Germany pulls out of military export control 'Army officer's column' about Ralph Peters, his New York Post opinion piece and the German military's withdrawal from the Land Combat Expo. Having read several of his articles, I feel he is a man who likes a good rant. Unfortunately the colonel indulges in is more suited to a Saturday night at the pub with his mates than in print.

To state that the German work force is "lazy, arrogant and corrupt" is a generalization of the worst kind. I have worked for the U.S. military for 15 years, and have met as many "lazy, arrogant" American employees as I have Germans of the same type.

The reason the Germans pulled out of the expo is obvious to anyone with common sense. They simply do not wish to rub shoulders with someone who so lambasted their country and everything it stands for. To use an analogy: If someone tells (untruthfully) the neighborhood that your wife is a tramp, your children are thieves, and you all live like pigs, would you go to a garden party at which he was a guest? I know I wouldn't.

Peters' statement Thursday that the German withdrawal indicates "how meaningless Germany's contribution is" to the alliance makes no sense. That's not the case, Lt. Col. Peters: They are withdrawing due to a natural desire to be as far away as possible from someone as loudly self-opinionated as your good self.

Justin Coughlan

Heidelberg, Germany

Although I personally have never heard of "famed" author Lt. Col. (Ret.) Ralph Peters, I have been told he is quite a brilliant man. After reading "Author offers to cancel speech in wake of boycott," (Sept. 24), I think Peters needs to take a long rest.

Comparing today's Germany with the Germany of the 1930s (burning books) is just plain insane. Whoever invited this guy to speak at the Land Combat Expo needs a long rest, too.

Don Thompson

Kaiserslautern, Germany

Make deployments equal

I am a National Guard soldier and have been in Iraq for eight months. Our unit's redeployment date is not until the end of February, which will put us in country for 13 months. I've seen active-duty units leave after only seven months. Why do the part-time soldiers have to fulfill the entire tour while the active-duty components serve half the time?

What the Army fails to realize or show compassion for is that as part-time soldiers we have other jobs to go home to and fight for the same position we had earned in years of faithful service.

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sored by local individuals, businesses and sponsors all located in the area of the club.

One of the primary reasons for writing this letter is to generate additional interest, logistical support and/or sponsorship. Some of the pertinent details involving the program are as follows:

The local Iraqi wrestling federation here in Baghdad will select 30 wrestlers between the ages of 13 and 16 to travel to the United States to participate in a 10-day wrestling program. Included in the program is a four-day wrestling camp coupled with motivational speakers who are or have been winners of their commitment and dedication to the sport of wrestling. Instruction will focus on all three wrestling styles: freestyle, Greco-Roman and Roman. The Iraqi youth will then spend three days attending and watching some of the best Midwest high school wrestling sectional championships, and during one of the tournaments the Iraqis will help run the event.

The financial goal is to raise enough funding to cover the travel cost for all the wrestlers. If you are interested in supporting the program as an individual sponsor, corporate donor, or just to pass on some additional ideas please contact me at the e-mail address: jcmeyers444@aol.com.

John Myers

U.S. Embassy

Baghdad

No credit cards for APOs

BankOne, a.k.a. First USA, on behalf of MillegPlus VISA, readily admits that it does not issue credit cards to military addresses. Applications are not accepted on-line nor over the phone. I discovered that given all the ways in which customers service brought an unequalled statement that it is bank policy not to accept applications nor issue credit cards to military addresses. It is of no consequence to BankOne or United Airlines if this policy is offensive and results in lost business, as I discovered by phoning and writing to all possible concerned parties about this policy.

Months ago I encountered what is probably the bank precursor to fatally refusing service to the military addressee with American Express and its Delta SkyMiles credit card. At that time they were profiling and screening military addressees into a multiple documentation route bereft with delays, all of which was not required from the general public (and this policy predated both Sept. 11, 2001, and the infamous "Patriot Act"). Credit history was not a determinant, just whether the address was an APO/FPO.

It is interesting to visualize these same military folks out in the field, posing a weapon and protecting the banks' corporate right to classify them as undesirable credit customers because of that military affiliation and their FPO address.

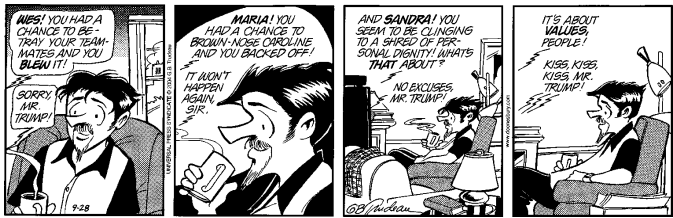
We have senators and representatives and it would be a good thing to let them know that corporate power structure is skewed and that it is unfair.

Joan Schwartze

Garmisch, Germany

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury



OPINION

Wall Street sees peril in empty piggy banks

Wall Street is already voting in the 2004 election, and it's giving President Bush surprisingly low marks. Despite strong corporate profits, the Dow Jones industrial average has been stuck just above 10,000 — trading in the same sluggish range it has maintained all year.

David Ignatius



Recent reports by two respected economists suggest an explanation. They argue that fiscal and monetary policies during the Bush administration have effectively raided the nation's piggy bank to finance current spending. Without

changes in policy, they suggest, we may be looking at an economy that continues to tread water — or begins to sink.

"Campaign 2004 has barely paid lip service to America's biggest economic problem," Morgan Stanley's Stephen Roach contended in a commentary last week. "The elephant in the room that the politicians continue to sidestep is the profound shortfall of national saving — the sustenance of future growth and prosperity for any economy."

Under Bush, the federal government has burned through savings at an incredible clip. Roach notes that the government's net savings rate has gone from a surplus of 2.4 percent in 2000 to a deficit of 3.1 percent at the end of July. He reckons that the largest swing from saving to dis-saving in the nation's history. "Little wonder that the politicians shy away from this issue — they are the major source of the problem," Roach notes.

Households have done as miserably as the federal government at managing money.

The personal savings rate is just 0.9 percent, says Roach, and when savings of all kinds are added together they total a net national rate of only 1.9 percent. Roach notes that an incumbent president has never stood for re-election with this key rate so low.

Bush's deficit spending — doling out tax cuts and other fiscal stimuli without the money to pay for them — is a big part of the nation's profligacy. But the Federal Reserve's monetary policy has also played a role, by keeping interest rates so low during 2002 and 2003 that homeowners were almost required to refinance their mortgages — and in many cases translate home equity into consumable cash.

John H. Makin of the American Enterprise Institute estimates in a Sept. 22 report that cash-out refinancings pumped \$100 billion annually into household disposable incomes in 2002 and 2003. That money helped consumers spend far more than they were making, according to Makin, with real consumer spending growing at 3.5 percent during the fiscal year that ended in July even though real disposable income grew at just 1.8 percent. During the three months that ended in July, consumption roared ahead at an annual rate of 4.2 percent while disposable income crept up at a rate of just 0.8 percent.

This raid-the-piggy-bank approach has allowed American consumers to play sugar daddy for the world economy. Spending down their savings, Americans have purchased the world's goods so avidly that they have pumped the current account deficit to an annual rate of 4.2 percent of GDP in this year's second quarter.

"Never before has a president stood for re-election with the United States more dependent on foreign imports of domestic growth," notes Roach. Looking at the countries, such as China and Japan, that finance this "increasingly tenuous disequilibrium,"



Roach wryly comments: "This is the real 'coalition of the willing.'"

Wall Street knows the numbers don't add up. And investors must have noticed last week when the head of the International Monetary Fund, Rodrigo Rato, lectured America about its deficits as if it were a Third World country. Still the sluggish stock market — despite corporate profit rates that have bounced back to bubble-economy levels of the late 1990s. Indeed, according to Fed valuation models cited by Makin, U.S. stocks that were trading well above "fair value" before the bubble burst in early 2000 are now well below.

Perhaps the reason for Wall Street's torpor is that investors have actually been following this wretched political campaign —

and noted the rapid debate about economics. Bush and Kerry are claiming they'll cut the budget deficit in half over the next four years, but neither is offering convincing details. "In fact," writes Roach, "there is good reason to worry that campaign promises of both parties could compound the problem rather than fix it." He notes that Bush's pledge to make his unfunded tax cuts permanent is "especially worrisome."

The presidential debate season is upon us. Maybe someone can force these candidates to stop sweet-talking the public about economics and explain how they plan to put some money back in the national piggy bank.

David Ignatius is a Washington Post columnist.

Fox hunting banned as Britain's blues, reds battle

WINCHESTER, England — most un-British spectacle broke out in the House of Commons on Sept. 15. As a people, Britons are better known for resolving political disputes with barbs of finely honed wit than with fistfights and bloody noses.

Helle Dale



The issue at hand, however, was such that passions could not be contained. And what was this matter of life and death? Not the war in Iraq, which is stretching the British military thin, nor the National Health Service, nor the future of Britain in the European Union. No, it was — believe it or not — fox hunting.

Outside the Houses of Parliament, where the Labour Party bill to ban fox hunting was up for a vote, a motley crowd of thousands had gathered, ranging from plain country folk to tweedy ladies and more-glamorous, upper-crust types. According to news reports, the scuffle with police soon turned nasty. Several young men broke into the parliamentary chamber and started fighting with officials until security staff tackled them and wrested them to the ground.

In the end, the ban was voted into law. The ban on fox hunting is now set to take effect in July 2006. A compromise solution has been proposed in the House of Lords for licensed fox hunting, but its future is far from certain.

At this point, it is tempting to feel that only a great satirical poet (such as Alexander

Pope, he of "The Rape of the Lock,") could do justice to these events. But there is more to the fox hunting issue than satire would allow. What has recently become clear in public statements is that Labour activists regard this as payback to conservative Britain for everything from the crushing of the miners' strike under Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in the early 1980s to preserving traditional British values.

Prime Minister Tony Blair is said to have exclaimed to the House when first proposed the fox hunting ban, "Oh for goodness' sake. I thought you were someone who concentrated on things that matter." But he soon found it very useful. For Blair, fox hunting became a bone tossed to the angry left wing of the Labour Party, which has been widely dissi-

sioned with the war in Iraq and business-friendly economic policies.

In the words of Labour Member of Parliament Dennis Skinner: "There is not a subject under the sun that is better suited to the Labour Party, for raising its morale in constituencies, than the ban on fox hunting."

The rural world they have in their sights is not multicultural or politically correct, and its bastions are to be found in small-town Britain and the countryside, dotted with pubs named things like "The Fox and Hound." It is very old, solid, decent, and has a lot in common with Middle America, the red states for election purposes. Urban Labour types, city dwellers in multicultural environments, have little understanding or sympathy with it whatsoever. In this they re-

semble East Coast, big-city America.

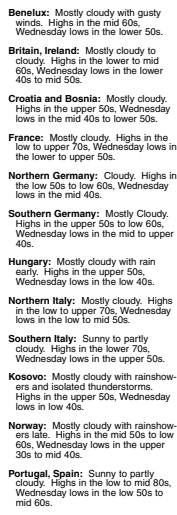
Clearly, this is all about politics. Britain's foxes don't stand much to benefit from the ban, which is sure to be broken anyway. According to a Blair government-sponsored study of the fox population conducted in 2000, British foxes would need to be destroyed if they were not hunted to protect livestock and prevent overbreeding. Would they really prefer to be gassed, shot or trapped? Given such options, taking their chances against the dogs, which often fail to catch their prey, might sound quite good.

Helle Dale is director of Foreign Policy and Defense Studies at The Heritage Foundation and deputy director of the Washington-based think tank's Davis Institute for International Policy Studies. This column first appeared in The Washington Times.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY





MIDDLE EAST

Map showing flight times from London (LON) to various cities in the Middle East:

- Incirlik 91/63
- Tel Aviv 93/71
- Cairo 97/72
- Baghdad 108/73
- Tehran 86/59
- Kuwait City 108/68
- Dhahran 108/76
- Ashgabat 89/55
- Mazar-e-Sharif 92/57
- Kabul 83/51
- Islamabad 93/68
- Kandahar 89/59
- Zahedan 86/50
- Dubai 100/79
- Karachi 93/77
- Bombay 86/73
- New Delhi 98/75
- Hyderabad 86/70

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Baghdad)	6:55AM	6:56AM
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	7:22AM	7:23AM
Sunset (Baghdad)	6:51PM	6:50PM
Sunset (Frankfurt)	7:10PM	7:08PM

			
Full moon Sept 28	Last qtr. Oct 6	New moon Oct 14	First qtr. Oct 20

As of noon, Eastern U.S. time

Boundaries separate high temperature zones for the day.

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Legend:

- Precip
- Snow
- Rain
- Sleet
- Fog
- Ice
- Sun
- Partly Cloudy
- Cloudy

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STARS AND STRIPES
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From sightseeing to war, blimps are back

Popular airships find new uses at home and overseas

BY CAROL MORELLO

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — In the middle of a cornfield in Maryland, a blimp glided in for a landing.

Eight men grabbed two long guide ropes that dragged them along, their heels dug in, until the blimp halted, hovering a foot off the ground. The sun momentarily dimmed as the airship's two propeller engines kicked up a swirl of dry corn husks.

The U.S. Army believes scenes such as the one that has unfolded repeatedly over recent days near Freeport Airport in Bowie, Md., might be as much about the future as a quaint re-enactment of a bygone time.

That is why the Army has leased a blimp from the nation's only airship manufacturer and outfitted it with sensors and cameras. The 178-foot-long lighter-than-air craft has been conducting test runs over the Washington area. In the fabric gondola hanging below the envelope, a technician will aim a camera, mounted to the front of the cabin, at government buildings and military bases.

The tests are designed to determine how effective the electro-optical and infrared cameras are at detecting potentially threatening movements on the ground when attached to a blimp yawing in the heat currents as it floats along 1,000 feet in the air at 30 knots. The equipment already is used in Iraq and Afghanistan to identify enemy troop movement, but in combat zones it is attached to a static inflatable device that looks like a giant, blimp-shaped balloon.



KATHERINE FREY/Washington Post

Guide ropes are pulled to help control a 178-foot-long blimp during recent test runs by the Army near the Freeport Airport in Bowie, Md.

The prospect that a helium-filled blimp is an idea whose time has come again is increasingly being considered by serious people charged with defending troops overseas and the nation's borders at home. Among the interested agencies is the Department of Homeland Security. Unmanned drones are already used along the border with Mexico. The agency thinks blimps might be equally useful.

"We're doing a preliminary evaluation," said Chris Wells, an assistant chief with the Border Patrol. "Though it's old technology

— airships have been around for a number of years — recent advances caused us to take a fresh look at it."

Aboard the blimp, Phillip Mix, an electronics technician with Crane Naval Service Warfare Center, sat before a television screen as the airship cruised above Route 50. The camera beamed images from 800 feet below — shopping malls, woods and meadows. Mix said that on a clear day, the cameras can discern objects from six to seven miles away.

Although the technology is

state-of-the-art, blimps have been used for military force protection for decades. During World War II, more than 150 blimps patrolled the East Coast on anti-submarine missions, escorting convoys out to sea.

From a blimp, it was possible to see a periscope in the ocean, said Norman Mayer, an Alexandria, Va., resident who is president of the Naval Airship Association. "There was never a convoy lost while an airship was patrolling," Mayer said. He allows that whenever he mentions his calling to a new acquaintance, "They want to have me psychologically."

Fewer than 30 blimps are in use, and 19 of them were made by the American Blimp Corp. in Oregon, one of only a handful of companies making modern blimps. Another is a German company whose name is synonymous with dirigibles, Zeppelin, which has sold three in recent years, all for sightseeing.

American Blimp makes three sizes of blimps, which sell for \$2 million to \$4 million each. Most are used during sporting events.

"It's a fun business," said E. Judson Brandreth Jr., the company's vice president for marketing. "Goodyear did a study and found that universally, blimps give people a big warm fuzzy. People just like blimps."

Judson Brandreth Jr., American Blimp's vice president for marketing, said many people wrongly assume blimps are vulnerable to bullets fired by, say, drug traffickers or terrorists. "We often discover bullet holes when the airships are brought to our hangar for maintenance," said Brandreth, citing the misconception that a bullet can bring down a blimp. "People shoot at them. Particularly in the country. We think it's kids, not urban warfare. We just patch it up and go."

Gender-based health movement looks beyond 'bikini medicine'

BY LINDSEY TANNER

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Beyond the sperm-and-egg basics taught in grade school science class, researchers are discovering that men and women are even more different than anyone realized.

It turns out that major illnesses like heart disease and lung cancer are influenced by gender, and that perhaps treatments for women ought to be slightly different from

the approach used for men.

These discoveries are part of a quiet but revolutionary change in infiltrating U.S. medicine as a growing number of scientists realize there's more to women's health than just the anatomy that makes them female, and that the same diseases often affect men and women in different ways.

"Women are different than men, not only psychologically [but] physiologically, and I think we need to understand those differences,"

says Dr. Catherine DeAngelis, editor of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

DeAngelis, who became the journal's first female editor in 1999, says she has made it a mission to publish only research in which data are broken down by sex, unless it involves a disease that affects just men or women.

In recent months, two medical textbooks billed as the first devoted to gender differences in all areas of medicine, not just reproductive medicine, were published; a widely cited Journal of the AMA report re-emphasized the neglected fact that lung cancer, not breast cancer, is the No. 1 cancer killer among women; and the American Heart Association announced the first-ever heart disease prevention guidelines tailored specifically for women.

And this fall, the office of Surgeon General will issue its first-ever report on osteoporosis. The crippling bone-thinning disease disproportionately affects women, who lose the bone-protecting effects of estrogen at menopause. The report will emphasize prevention — and that it's not just a woman's disease — 20 percent of patients are men, said Wanda Jones, director of the Office on Women's Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The gender-based medicine movement isn't an effort to diminish the importance of breast cancer, but is meant to emphasize

that "we have more than one body part, folks. Up until now ... that awareness just hasn't been there," said Sherry Marts of the Society for Women's Health Research. That organization seeks to expand the definition of women's health beyond breast and reproductive health, what some call "bikini medicine."

Until the 1990s, scientists frequently excluded women from medical research, including drug studies. It was largely out of concern over effects on reproduction but also because of a long-standing belief that men and women "were biologically the same except for their reproductive organs," Marts said.

However, recent discoveries suggest that genes, hormones and lifestyle may be behind many of the differences.

Inflammatory bowel disease, which encompasses both Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, is a specialty of Dr. Sunanda Kane, a University of Chicago researcher.

Both diseases damage the digestive tract and in severe cases, doctors remove part of the colon and patients must wear colostomy bags.

Kane says she got interested in a gender-based approach several years ago during her training, when there were few other gastroenterologists who were women.

"Female patients were thrilled to see a woman and they started to tell me things they'd never tell their (male) doctors," including



Dr. Sunanda Kane comforts a female patient in July in Chicago. Kane is one of a growing number of gender-based physicians who say there's more to women's health than just anatomy.

what their menstrual periods were doing to their disease, she said.

"Anecdotally, people have told me their disease went into remission after menopause," and some women "are asking me if they can have a hysterectomy so they can go into remission," Kane said.

It's an issue that could have a huge impact on patients' quality of life — but it's never been studied, she said.

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Drunk riders allowed

PA PITTSBURGH — The state Supreme Court ruled that Pennsylvania's drunken driving law can't be enforced against people on horseback, a decision that inspired the dissenting justice to wax poetic.

The court ruled in a case against two men in Mever County in June 2002. Riders Keith Travis, 41, and Richard Noel, 49, were charged with drunken driving along with a man driving a pickup who allegedly rear-ended the horse Travis was riding away from a bar on a dark country road.

All three men failed field sobriety tests, police said, but a judge threw out the charges against Noel and Travis after they argued that the word "vehicles" in the state's drunken-driving law doesn't apply to horses.

Justice Michael Eakin, who is fond of writing rhyming opinions, summed up the lone dissent with two stanzas mimicking the theme song of "Mister Ed" — a 1960s TV sitcom about a talking horse: "A horse is a horse, of course, of course, but the Vehicle Code does not divorce its application from, perforce, a steed as my colleagues said."

"It's not vague," I'll say until I'm hoarse, and whether a car, a truck or horse this law applies with equal force, and I'd reverse instead."

Billy the Kid investigation

NM FORT SUMNER — Three New Mexico officials looking for answers about the death of Western legend Billy the Kid have dropped their request to exhumate what are believed to be the outlaw's remains.

Lincoln County Sheriff Tom Sullivan, joined by deputy and Captain Mayor Steve Serwall and De Baca County Sheriff Gary Graves, launched an investigation last year into the outlaw's escape in early 1881 and Sheriff Pat Garrett's slaying of the Kid later that year.

The investigation aims to clear up persistent questions about the fate of William Bonney, known in Western lore as Billy the Kid.

Contending histories suppose Garrett killed the wrong man and lied about it — and that the outlaw isn't buried in a cemetery here.

One story has the Kid slipping away and winding up in Texas, where he was known as "Brushy Bill" Roberts and died of a heart attack at age 90.

Newspaper ban eased

MI FLINT — Mayor Don Williams said he will allow newspapers in City Hall — a slight loosening of his ban on city employees reading anything at work that's not related to their jobs.

The announcement came after police temporarily detained a newspaper carrier for trying to deliver subscriptions to City Hall.

Williams issued an executive order in July that prohibits city workers from reading or having non-work-related reading material on city property during their work hours.

The mayor's office said the city will allow "delivery of newspapers by authorized persons" for use during breaks and lunch.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

No 'Choose Life' plates

TN NASHVILLE — A federal judge ruled that the state's "Choose Life" license plate is unconstitutional based on the reasoning in similar cases in other states, but he declined to rule on whether Tennessee's entire specialty plate program is flawed.

U.S. District Judge Todd Campbell wrote that the state cannot promote just one viewpoint in the abortion debate.

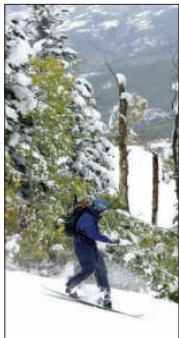
"The result in this case would be the same if the statute authorized a 'Pro-Choice' license plate instead of the 'Choose Life' license plate," Campbell wrote.

The American Civil Liberties Union and Planned Parenthood challenged the plate in November, arguing that the state was not providing an equal opportunity for opposing viewpoints.

Contraband cigarettes

WA YAKIMA — Five people have been charged with felonies following an 18-month investigation into sales of untaxed cigarettes and raids on a number of Indian smoke shops.

Authorities said it apparently was the first time the Justice Department has brought criminal charges, at least in the Pacific Northwest, over contraband cigarettes intended for sale to non-Indians.



First tracks

Enjoying more than a foot of snow from a storm that recently passed through the Yampa Valley, Marco X of Steamboat Springs, Colo., makes first tracks down the Steamboat Ski Area.

In a 238-count indictment issued by a federal grand jury, the three north Idaho residents and two Tacoma-area men were charged with money laundering, conspiracy to launder money and conspiracy to traffic in contraband cigarettes.

Man sentenced

UT SALT LAKE CITY — A man convicted of shaking a baby who died after 12 years in a vegetative state was sentenced to between five years and life in prison.

Warren Clifford Hales, who shook then-5-month-old Luther Deem in 1985, had said the boy was accidentally injured after Hales slammed on his brakes to avoid another car and the baby hit the dashboard.

But prosecutors said Hales shook the boy hard enough to leave him blind, mute and unable to learn or care for himself.

The boy lingered in a persistent vegetative state for 12 years before dying in 1997.

Teen falls to his death

ME CLIFTON — A teenager fell 150 feet to his death while camping with friends near a cliff, officials said.

Joel McKay, 16, of Glenburn, lost his footing and tumbled off Park Pond Bill while trying to extinguish a small fire started by a firecracker, said Wes Linscott, of the Maine State Police in Orono.

The teenager's body was recovered.

McKay was part of a group that was camping on Parks Pond Bill in Penobscot County when someone tossed a firecracker over a drop-off near the camp site, Linscott said.

McKay and two others were trying to put out the fire when McKay got too close to the edge and fell, he said.

Endangered bird plan

HI HONOLULU — Mongooses, cats and rats still threaten the endangered state bird, but federal wildlife officials announced a comprehensive recovery plan aimed at taking the nene off endangered and threatened species lists.

Establishing a stable Hawaiian goose population was not needed for federal protection, however, would take a minimum of 30 years under U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service rules.

From just 30 birds in 1952, the number of nene has grown to an estimated 1,300 today, nearly all on Kauai, Hawaii, Maui and Molokai. The nene is found only in Hawaii.

Art thief gets 2 years

FL MIAMI — A man pleaded guilty to being part of a conspiracy that stole paintings by Monet and Renoir from a Naples mansion last year and was sentenced to two years in prison.

Carlos Somoano, 38, pleaded guilty in state court to grand theft for stealing the French impressionist paintings worth \$6.7 million. The sentence will run simultaneously with a 10-year federal sentence on an unrelated drug charge. He had faced up to 30 years for the theft.

Somoano didn't take part in the theft, but tried to arrange the sale of the paintings for \$1 million to two men who turned out to be undercover police officers.



Dirty landing spot
Landfill in Daytona Beach, Fla.

A bald eagle rests on piles of debris and garbage at the Volusia County



A fishy scare Maliah Baguran, 8, second from right, laughs as Tristin Lewis, 8, cringes near a coho salmon being shown at Campbell Creek in Anchorage, Alaska.



Momma Mia!

Candace Combs, from left, Pat Turpin and Teressa Hundley work preparing a pepperoni and sausage pizza at the Casey County Apple Festival in Liberty, Ky.



Experiencing the force Radio station contest winner Jacinda Sumara, of Birmingham, Mich., takes a flight and experiences zero gravity through G-Force One, a specially modified Boeing 727-200 out of Detroit Metropolitan Airport.



A close catch Federal Reserve Bank employee Steve Lowe, right, makes a fingertip catch in front of fellow employee Marc Hare during lunch as they played a game of touch football in Kansas City, Mo.



Green giant A green elephant stands guard over the Green Animals topiary garden as greenery sculpted into giraffe can be seen in the background in Portsmouth, R.I.



A colossal view A rainbow casts an arch over the brontosaurus on top of Dinosaur Park in Rapid City, S.D., during a late afternoon shower.

Fed bust drug ring

VA HARRISONBURG — Federal and local law enforcement officials declared an end to a seven-year operation that sent 90 drug criminals to prison and kept hundreds of pounds of methamphetamine out of the region.

John Brownlee, U.S. attorney for the Western District of Virginia, called Operations "High Roller (1&2)" a significant victory in the fight against drugs.

Among those in prison as a result of the operation is Donald Wayne Long of Harrisonburg, who authorities said was responsible for procuring methamphetamine, a cheap, highly addictive and potent drug for users in the Shenandoah Valley.

Authorities say Thompson distributed 300 pounds of meth, 30 pounds of cocaine and several hundred pounds of marijuana.

In all, the investigation led to 40 federal and 50 state convictions.

Judge strikes bootleg ban

NY NEW YORK — A federal judge struck down a 1994 law banning the sale of bootleg recordings of live music, ruling the law unfairly grants "seemingly perpetual protection" to the original performers.

U.S. District Judge Harold Baer Jr. dismissed a federal indictment of Jean Martignon, who runs a Manhattan mail-order and Internet business that sells bootleg recordings.

Baer found the bootleg law was written by Congress in the spirit of federal copyright law, which protects writing for a fixed period of time — typically for the life of the author and 70 years after the author's death.

But the judge said the bootleg law, which was passed "primarily to cloak artists with copyright protection," could not stand because it places no time limit on the ban.

Man poses as doctor

TX HOUSTON — A man wearing hospital scrubs and a white lab coat sexually assaulted three women patients at a Houston hospital, officials said.

The man, dressed as a medical professional in lab scrubs and a carrying a stethoscope, performed pelvic examinations on three women in their rooms after asking them several questions, said Detective Keith McMurtry, of the Houston Police Department's Sex Crimes Unit.

Police said it took the patients time to realize what had happened and alert authorities.

The victims, ranging in age from the late teens to the early 30s, told police the man's demeanor was professional and calm. He wore carried a doctor's chart or a piece of paper, McMurtry said.

'Sacred' buffalo dies

WI JANESVILLE — A buffalo considered sacred by some American Indians because it was born white has died of natural causes at the age of 10, its owner said.

The animal, named Miracle, drew as many as 2,000 visitors a day in the year after its birth in 1994.

Although its hide became darker as it aged, some associated Miracle with the white buffalo of American Indian prophecies.

According to lore, such an animal will reunite all the races of man and restore balance to the world.

Flip-flops take over

CA ANVIL — Charlotte Wood Middle School is awash in flip-flops. Hundreds and hundreds of flip-flops.

Since word got out that students were collecting the California wardrobe staple for barefoot Iraqi children walking on hot sand, the campus has been hit by a tidal wave of sandals.

A trendy flip-flop maker whose footwear has appeared on "Oprah" and "Sex and the City" has pledged 1,000 pairs worth \$25,000. Another donor dropped off a box of 100. One man walked into the school and peeled off nine \$100 bills to help with shipping costs. And Wells Fargo wrote a check for \$10,000 to send all those shoes halfway around the world.

The shoes keep coming, but the school doesn't mind.

Man shoots bear

AK ANCHORAGE — Gary Boyd was walking his boxer puppy along a popular hiking trail when he heard something big crashing through the brush behind him.

"I thought it was a moose, but then I saw it was too low for a moose," said Boyd, a former Army helicopter pilot and retired maintenance chief. "I just had time to pull my pistol and spin around."

A massive male brown bear erupted from the forest less than 20 feet away, claws tearing up hard-packed earth as he charged toward the 57-year-old.

"I fired the first shot, and I aimed at its shoulders," Boyd said. "When the first shot didn't faze it, I fired the second time, and it turned into the ditch, and I shot three more times, and it went down."

Zen priest ordained

VT SHELburne — The Vermont Zen Center ordained its first priest in their first Buddhist ordination in the state.

Holly Callery, a 64-year-old Charlotte resident, was one of two priests at the center. Sensei Sudanya Graet was ordained in New York before moving to Vermont.

As a priest, Callery will no longer wear makeup or jewelry, wear solid black or blue clothing and will keep her hair short.

During the ceremony, she had her head shaved, and she changed her name.

Inmates to pay for care

AR BENTON — Starting next year, state prison inmates are going to have to pay \$3 each time they request medical care.

The fee, approved with a 4-3 vote by the state Corrections Board, is intended to discourage frivolous medical complaints that take time and resources from inmates with legitimate health problems.

In a typical month, about 14,000 inmate sick calls are made.

Many inmates and their families said the fee will probably end up being paid by families because Arkansas does not pay its inmates for job assignments.

Stories and photos from wire services.

FACES

Sheen stumps for congresswoman

Actor Martin Sheen did some real-life politicking for a congressional candidate who used to work on his television series "The West Wing."

Sheen, who portrays fictional president Josiah Bartlett on the TV series, attended North Carolina private fund-raisers Saturday in Charlotte and Richmond County for 8th District congressional candidate Beth Troutman.

Troutman, a Democrat who worked for four years as assistant to the executive producer of "The West Wing," is trying to unseat Republican Rep. Robin Hayes.

Sheen made an appearance in Kannapolis, where thousands of jobs were lost last year when a textile plant shut down. He spoke with laid-off workers for 30 minutes.

"I'm supporting Beth's campaign for Congress," he said, standing across the street from the plant. "This is a clear indication of what is happening all over this country."

Sheen finished the day at a party at the Raleigh home of former Ambassador Jeanette Hyde.

Dylan recalls search for solitude

Bob Dylan, who is working on the second volume of his autobiography, says he went through a personal crisis in the late 1960s when his huge fame made it difficult to escape ravenous fans.

In an interview with The Sunday Telegraph, Dylan recalled moving to rural New York state in search of solitude, only to be followed en masse by his fans.

"It all turned into a nightmare," he said.

Dylan said his fear that a crazed fan could attack him or his family led him to keep several guns in his house and stifled his creative process.

"In the early years everything had been like a magic carpet ride for me, and then all at once it was over," Dylan told the paper. "Here was this thing I'd wanted to do all my life, but suddenly I didn't feel I could do it anymore."

Asked whether he came close to a nervous breakdown, Dylan replied: "I guess I did."

Dylan spoke to the paper from his home in Minnesota, where he's working on the second volume of his autobiography. The first volume, "Chronicles: Volume One," goes on sale in Britain Oct. 12.

Drummer tumbles off stage

Shock rocker Marilyn Manson's drummer broke his wrist and suffered a slight concussion in a fall from the stage at an event in Germany, organizers said.

Drummer Ginger Fish was taken to a hospital in Cologne for treatment after the incident Friday night and was released Saturday, Viva television channel said in a statement.

Fish, whose real name is Kenny Wilson, fell off the stage as the band performed a cover version of Depeche Mode's "Personal Jesus" at an award ceremony at the city's Koelnarena. Viva did not say what prompted the fall.

Pop music in shadow of Great Wall

Alicia Keys, Nellie McKay and Cyndi Lauper brought pop music to an ancient setting, performing for thousands of Chinese fans at the foot of the Great Wall.

Also on the bill of Saturday's concert was Boyz II Men and vocalist Sylvia Tosun.

Keys wore a leather jacket and a hat pulled low over her face as she performed eight songs on a stage beside one of the wall's immense gatehouses north of Beijing.

"Thank you for having me at the Great Wall," she said as fans cheered.

Organizers described the concert as the first by foreign musicians at the wall, although British disc jockey Paul Oakenfold performed there last year and later released an album of the show.

Some of the proceeds from Saturday's concert were to go to a Chinese children's charity, promoters said.

Despite the chilly autumn evening, Lauper performed part of her set barefoot. She descended from the stage and into the audience at one point, causing a brief flurry as Chinese police ordered her to get up.

Tosun was joined by a children's choir as she sang a traditional Chinese song, "Jasmine."

From The Associated Press



Rhythm and blues singer Jill Scott grew up in north Philadelphia. She is a proudly full-bodied woman, confident and strong with a voice to match. In the three years since she disappeared from public view, Scott got married, bought a house, painted it, started an educational foundation called Blues Babes and spent a lot of time listening to Maze's Frankie Beverly and the late Minnie Riperton. Scott just released her new album, "Beautifully Human: Words and Sounds Vol. 2."

Neo-soul singer Scott's still 'Golden' voice

By TERESA WILTZ

The Washington Post

It's been four years since Jill Scott's first album, "Who Is Jill Scott? Words and Sounds Vol. 1" — a reasonable question for those outside Philadelphia who'd never heard of Jilly from Philly.

She was, they discovered, a singer-songwriter who didn't need the marketing magic of MTV or a major label to win an audience. Her songs were all she needed. And then, after a seemingly endless run of singles spinning out from her Grammy-nominated debut CD, she all but disappeared.

Now Scott is back with a resolute optimism, happily married and apparently eager to spread the joy in "Beautifully Human: Words and Sounds Vol. 2," an album that traffics in the prosaic power of everyday life: the sweet humor of a dysfunctional "Family Reunion," reveling in being able to get your "hair tight and ... nails right," realizing that in affairs of the heart, what goes around comes around, and yes, women can do the backstabbing, too.

"Golden," the disc's first single, is an irresistibly happy affair, opening with expansive synthesizer that evokes a '70s vibe.

Instrumentally it's rather simple, bass and drums keeping steady pace with Scott's swooping vocals. Still, while the mood occasionally is evocative of times gone by, it avoids the derivative rut that so many neo-soul singers get stuck in. This song stays rooted in the present, an ecumenical gospel for those who like their spirituality served up with a rum-shaking groove: "I'll be high-steppin' y'all! Letting the joy unfold ... I'm strummin' my own freedom, playing the God in me ... Hope He's proud of me / I'm living my life like it's Golden."

"Golden" is quintessential Scott: defiantly affirming the positive. It is this sense of joie de vivre, coupled with her powerful voice, that created so many fans with her first album and carried her through her second, live album, "Experiencing: Jill Scott + 826," and earned her a fervent following in live sold-out concerts nationwide.

Indeed, Scott is the poster girl for mental health, a champion for brushing yourself off, dumping the losers and snuggling up in the arms of a strong, sexy and, of course, emotionally available man.

She's always married words to music. In "Cross My Mind," she indulges her poet's side, opening with spoken lyrics as she lets a former lover know that yes, she's thought of him once ... or twice. Sung choruses burst between the spoken stanzas, until her speech morphs into scats, the wistful reverie leading her off into musical tangents, much the way the mind whirls around and around on itself, tripping on the past. It's as if she can't help herself, the music is bubbling inside her, threatening to explode. Then she stops herself, returning to the surety of spoken word: "But the reality is! You were never good for me and I was never good for you! I just remember what we used to do."

Scott is a proudly full-bodied woman, confident and strong with a voice to match. It's a voice that's in fine form throughout "Beautifully Human," at once sweetly ethereal and childlike in the dreamily yearning "The Fact Is (I Need You)" and then brassy earthy in the bluesy "Bedda at Home," where she lets a brother on the street know that while he's "intoxicating and so divine," she's looking but not touching because she's got a man who is, well, bedda.

In the two years that she disappeared from public view, Scott got married, bought a house, painted it, started an educational foundation called Blues Babes, and spent a lot of time listening to Maze's Frankie Beverly and the late Minnie Riperton. Their influences can be felt in the sweetness of her sounds, in her conscience-driven lyrics.

She's chosen to work with the same producers from her first CD: James Poyser, Andre Harris, Vidal Davis, Mamie's Boys — while adding wunderkind Raphael Saadiq to the mix. Smart choice. Who knows — if she'd worked with the producing flavas of the minute, no doubt she'd end up, as her contemporary Anne Stone did, trying to increase her cool quotient in a duet with the likes of Snoo Dogg.

Instead, she sticks with what works for her: carefully constructed songs that don't have to the standard. When she experiments, she's more likely to play with musical genres than done gone by, like the big-band seasoning in "Talk to Me."

Still, there are some missteps, namely "Rasool," a pedantic, heavy-handed warning against youth-on-youth violence, and she does go a bit overboard with the self-affirmations of her goddess within.

Horoscope

The full moon in impulsive Aries gives power to good ideas and bad ones alike. We may mistakenly feel that since we're having an idea it's automatically good and should be acted on right away. There are not a lot of reasonable influences urging us to rethink, research or exercise restraint. The result is plenty of action and reaction.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(September 28). You have a perfect opportunity to achieve or even surpass your goals for the coming year — but only if you're very clear about what it is you want. Put in the time to dig deep and do some serious soul searching. Be honest about your true desires. Be as detailed as possible. But above all, be brave. Lucky love signs are Aries and Aquarius.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

Don't let fear of failure keep you from finishing what you started. When approaching the end of a project or situation, remember to remain flexible. Adapt to newly emerging situations, and you'll pass through them unscathed.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

This is a very positive time for you, as you feel grounded and self-assured. An organized approach can help you make quick work of a spouse's "honey-do" list. Don't be shy about asking your money for a favor, too.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

Perhaps you've been holding your tongue, waiting for the right opportunity to let the powers that be know what's on your mind. Speak up now. You're able to see both sides of the story, which helps you present a fair analysis.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

On the prowl for a new love? Or perhaps your cozy, comfy relationship needs a bit of drama? Update your wardrobe, hairstyle or makeup. Maybe even your attitude. You're loaded with self-confidence and charisma.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

You're able to really view yourself objectively. Vanity, pride and ego are decep-

tive veils that are easily lifted to reveal your true, beautiful self. Remember, our actions are ultimately motivated by either love or fear.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

You may feel like you're walking on a tightrope. There's a fine line between doing good for others and stretching yourself too thin. Beware of taking on too many responsibilities. Saying no is sometimes the most loving thing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

Now is not the time for painful deliberations or self-analysis. "What did I do to deserve this good fortune?" Just accept happiness as your due. Success is hard to accept if you've grown accustomed to being disappointed.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

Never underestimate the power of laughter. You'll benefit most by doing something that makes you feel like a kid again. Blow bubbles, draw in the driveway with chalk, or swing on monkey bars at the park.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

Forget about the laundry and the credit card bills for right now — the universe bestows blessings on your house. Focus on the people you love. You're the center of their world, so set a good example of peace and harmony.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

Give the foundation of your home a good shake to see where the weak spots are. Does the roof need repair? Do you have adequate insurance? An ounce of prevention now can save you big headaches down the road.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

Romance can spring up in the most unusual places — at the Laundromat or department of motor vehicles. Maybe even right under your nose, if you'd only open your eyes and see without prejudice. Let go of preconceived notions.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

Though you excel at the art of self-delusion, pretending your problems don't exist only delays the inevitable. The reality is that no problem is insurmountable. Ask a trusted friend to keep you accountable for your actions.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Jillion



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



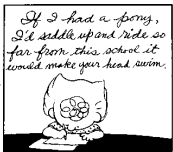
Red Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



Parents can't fall asleep on job

Dear Abby: I read with concern the letter from "Sleeping Beauty's Mother-in-Law," whose son was his 5-year-old daughter in her bedroom when he leaves for work so his wife can continue sleeping.

When I was a child, it was my job to lock my younger brother in his bedroom after he had eaten breakfast. I did it because my mother also wanted to continue to sleep.

Unbeknownst to me or my mother, my brother had found a cigarette lighter. He had it in his room one morning when I locked him in. To make a long story short, he started a fire in his room that resulted in his death. I have lived with the guilt of this tragedy for nearly 20 years, despite years of therapy.

The grandmother who wrote that letter has good reason to be concerned for the well-being of her grandchild.

Please remind your readers

that children are not a convenience. They require the supervision of responsible people who will care for them unselfishly.

— **Florida Family Therapist**
Dear Florida Therapist: Please accept my deepest sympathy for your little brother's death. It was not your fault.

The responsibility was your mother's. You were only a child yourself, and obeying her orders. If it's forgiveness you are looking for, I forgive you. Read on:

Dear Abby: The letter from that grandmother gave me chills.

My daughter-in-law gave birth to two children, but had only one when she met my son. The other had been locked in his room while she slept. Somehow he got tangled in the cords on the blinds while he was playing and strangled.

When she awoke, she found her son dead.

My daughter-in-law lives

every day with the knowledge that her son died as a result of her negligence.

No child — or adult, for that matter — should be locked in a room. Without supervision, children often do things they're not allowed to do.

— **A Reader in Alaska**
Dear Reader: It goes without saying that a caregiver should be awake and capable of supervising the child.

Anything less is child abuse. Whether "Sleeping Beauty," the mother in the original letter, suffers from mental illness, depression or substance abuse, an intervention is called for. Because the parents seem oblivious to the danger, I advised the writer to notify Child Protective Services. While some readers felt this was drastic, it is better to take action and ensure the child's safety than to do nothing and regret it forever.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69404, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RABDN

JEDDA

ABAANN

RASTUX

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www.jumble.com

Answers tomorrow

Yesterday's

Jumbles: KHAKI BANJO BUSILY SEXTON

Answer: What the golfer exclaimed when he kept hitting the ball in the water — IT'S A LINKS JINX

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



THE MUSICIANS DIDN'T USE THE RICKETY PLATFORM BECAUSE IT WAS —

Daughter still cold to stepmother

Dear Annie: Eight years ago, I married a wonderful lady. At the time, I was a widower with two children. Both kids are now in their late 30s. My son is fine with his new stepmother, but my daughter, "Serena," did not want to get married and always has treated my wife with indifference.

Thank heavens we live 800 miles apart, but whenever Serena visits, she always asks me to go out for dinner or shopping, and will not include my wife. When my wife and I are at our vacation home (which is not far from Serena's house), my daughter never asks us to stop by.

Serena also has insisted that I give her all my antiques and valuables so my wife will not get them if anything happens to me.

While my wife received a Mother's Day card from Serena last May for the first time, she was ignored on her birthday, as usual. I am fed up with Serena's treatment and am ready to write

her out of my will, because that is what is most important to her. To treat my wife like this is a slap in the face to me.

— **A Troubled Father**
Dear Troubled: We know this must seem like eight years of disrespect to you, but please look again. Serena sent a Mother's Day card. This is quite a major leap, and you should be encouraged by it.

It takes some children a very long time to accept a parent's new spouse.

Instead of making demands, tell Serena how much your wife (and you) appreciate it whenever she does something kind. We are hoping that she eventually will come to understand why you love your wife so much.

Dear Annie: I had to write about your response to "Understanding Parents," whose son was living in their converted garage. You said they could charge him as

much as \$500 in rent each month. That is ridiculous.

I'm 24, and I live at my parents' house. If they made me pay that much, there would be no reason to stay here. I pay \$100 so I can save the rest. Forcing your own son or daughter to pay more than \$200 a month is absolutely absurd.

— **Need the Money Myster**
Dear Need: Parents can charge as little as they please, but the amount paid in rent should depend on the amount earned in salary. If you are paying \$100 a month, we assume your job isn't providing much. The reason your parents let you stay is because they also want you to save money, but it is an act of love on their part.

"Wondering's" son pays nothing, does no laundry, doesn't clean up. Mom cooks his food and even buys his clothes, while he spends his cash on tattoos and beer. Give us a break.

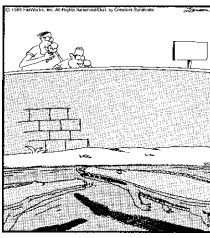
Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annies-mailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Annie's Mailbox



© Gary Larson

The Far Side



Non Sequitur



Dennis the Menace

SCOREBOARD

AFTN TV & Radio

Tuesday

AFTN-Sports, 9 a.m. — Pro basketball: WNBA playoff series, first round, Minnesota at Seattle; Detroit at Washington.

AFTN-Pacific, Korea, noon — Pro football: Dallas at Washington.

AFTN-Sports, noon — Auto racing: NASCAR Nextel Cup Series, MBNA America 400 (dtd).

AFTN-Sports, 4 p.m. — Motorcycle racing: FIM World Superbike Championship, Race 1, from Imola, Italy, (dtd).

AFTN-Sports, 7 p.m. — Pro football: Dallas at Washington (dtd).

Wednesday

AFTN-Atlantic, 11 a.m. — Baseball: Minnesota at New York Yankees.

AFTN-Sports, 11 a.m. — Pro basketball: WNBA playoff series, first round, Detroit at New York, Game 3.

AFTN-Sports, 4 a.m. — Pro basketball: WNBA playoff series, first round, Sacramento at Boston, Game 3.

AFTN-Sports, 6 a.m. — Auto racing: Champ Car World Series, The Bridgestone 200 (dtd).

AFTN-Sports, 1 p.m. — Motorcycle racing: FIM World Superbike Championship, Race 2, from Imola, Italy, (dtd).

AFTN-Sports, 3 p.m. — College football: Army at Connecticut (dtd).

AFTN-Sports, 7 p.m. — Baseball: New York Mets at Atlanta (dtd).

All times Central European time; dtd indicates tape-delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Some programs may not be available in all areas. Visit www.startrac.com for more information.

Auto racing

MBNA America 400

NASCAR Nextel Cup Series

At Dover Downs International Speedway
Dover, Del.

Lap length: 1 mile

(Starting position) 1. Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet, 400, \$195,477.

2. (2) Ryan Newman, Dodge, 400, \$159,677.

3. (3) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 400, \$159,677.

4. (4) Dale Jarrett, Ford, 400, \$122,877.

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Newman wins, but Gordon comes out ahead

Four-time champ takes lead in battle for Nextel Cup title

BY DICK BRINSTER
The Associated Press

DOVER, Del. — Jeff Gordon has the lead in the Nextel Cup series, and after four series championships he's proven to be a great closer.

So, he's certainly a force to be reckoned with the rest of the way — a driver filled with confidence as the NASCAR circuit heads to Talladega Superspeedway.

"Obviously, we have some momentum," Gordon said after taking the series lead Sunday while Ryan Newman was winning at Dover International Speedway. "We finished seventh last week, third this week. That speaks for itself."



Ryan Newman jumps out of his car as he celebrates his win in the NASCAR MBNA America 400.

Gordon's confidence is further bolstered by victories in April at Talladega and July at Daytona. Those are the two NASCAR tracks where power-boasting restrictor-plates slow the cars.

But Gordon knows there are no guarantees, given the history of multicar crashes at both venues. "That's the nature of Talladega," he explained. "You can say you're going to try to stay out of trouble, but usually it's out of your control. You're just along for the ride."

Newman has a plan to win the title even though the mathematics make that seem very unlikely. "If we can finish in the top five in the last nine races, I can pretty much guarantee us a championship," he said. "But we can't finish 33rd, first and then 33rd."

He certainly can't, given Gordon's 107-point advantage with eight races remaining. Newman is playing catch-up because engine failure relegated him to a 33rd-place finish a week earlier in New Hampshire.

"But this is a big step in the right direction," he said of his victory in the MBNA America 400. "We'll just do the best that we possibly can, and if we don't deserve it then we won't get it."

Gordon agrees with Newman's assessment that consistency will win the title. He isn't that concerned with wins.

"What more can you ask for than top-fives every weekend," Gordon said. "That would do it."

He also believes Newman remains a threat, saying that one bad race should not knock a team out of championship contention.

"If Ryan Newman does what he



Smoke drifts off Matt Kenseth's car after it slammed into a barrier at Dover International Speedway Sunday in Dover, Del. Kenseth was leading the NASCAR MBNA America 400 at the time of the accident.

did today anymore, he'll be right back in the thick of things," Gordon said.

Newman's optimism stems from the belief that practically every team will have one very bad race in the final 10.

"We've got to forget about today right now," he said. "If you're spending time celebrating, you're not spending time working."

Gordon finished third behind Mark Martin in the race and is one point ahead of Kurt Busch, who wound up fifth and lost the points lead when he was passed by Dale Jarrett with six laps to go.

"I thought we might have a shot at Mark," Gordon said. "But we had nothing for Newman."

Gordon said his car was good at times and far off at others. He

also believes he can run better next week.

"I just hope that doesn't mean we have a bull's-eye on us at Talladega," he said.

New Hampshire winner Busch came to The Monster Mile tied for the series lead with Dale Earnhardt Jr., who fell to third in the title chase by finishing ninth. He's 18 points behind Gordon.

Although he didn't make a large gain, Newman demonstrated the power of his Dodge by leading 325 of 400 laps. Newman, who started second, was ahead by a half-lap for much of the final quarter of the race, with the margin reduced only because a caution flag punched the field on the 327th lap.

Newman's victory in the \$5.4 million event was his third at Dover, where he swept the races

last year. He got his second victory this season and 11th of his career, beating Martin by 8.149 seconds on the high-banked concrete oval. Martin got his fourth Dover victory in June.

"We made some adjustments but we didn't have to make many," Newman said. "Once you get it right on this concrete it stays right."

Busch was happy with his best Dover finish.

"We just lost the handle on it in the corners," he said. "I was trying to hold off Jarrett but I couldn't."

Martin now tied with Jimmie Johnson for fourth place in the series, said he got all he could out of his car.

"The race was decided on the last restart," he said. "I found out what the 12 (Newman) really had."

Struggles vs. Stanford hurt No. 1-ranked USC

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

Southern California's hold on No. 1 loosened after the Trojans struggled against Stanford.

USC received 46 first-place votes in The Associated Press poll released Sunday, eight fewer than last week.

The team that benefited most from Southern California's come-from-behind 31-28 victory on Saturday was idle Oklahoma. The second-ranked Sooners got 15 first-place votes and narrowed the gap between them and the Trojans to 35 points (1,605-1,570).

USC trailed 28-17 at the half to Stanford, but never panicked.

"It was fun," USC quarterback Matt Leinart said. "We haven't had too many close games."

The Trojans' defense came alive in the second half, shutting out the Cardinal and allowing just

36 yards. Meanwhile, Leinart and tailbacks Reggie Bush and Lendale White made key plays offensively to secure the Trojans' 13th straight victory.

"I know people wonder how you have games like this," Trojans coach Pete Carroll said. "It ain't going to be easy. It's hard to do this week after week."

And it's going to get harder for the Trojans.

USC is off next week before heading California on Oct. 9. Cal was the last team to beat the Trojans, winning 34-31 in triple overtime last season.

USC's close call was part of another perfect weekend for ranked teams. The 19-0 performance — 17-0 in Saturday's games — left the Top 25 virtually unchanged.

Georgia was No. 3 followed by Miami, Texas, West Virginia and Ohio State. No. 8 Auburn and No. 9 Florida State flip-flopped — the teams are separated by only 19



Tailback Reggie Bush and the rest of the USC Trojans had trouble getting past Stanford on Saturday.

points — and California and Tennessee tied for No. 10 with 1,033 points each.

No teams fell out of the rankings or moved more than two spots in either direction. No. 23 Boise State, which needed a late missed field goal by BYU to extend its winning streak to 15 games, fell two spots.

The USA Today/ESPN coaches poll had the same top five teams as the AP.

Sports' highest court hears appeal in Hamm medal flap

The Associated Press

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — Paul Hamm appeared before the sports world's highest court Monday to argue why he should keep his Olympic gymnastics gold medal.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport convened to hear the appeal from a South Korean who lost the gold medal in the men's all-around at last month's Athens Olympics because of a scoring error.

Yang Tae-yung wants CAS to order international gymnastics officials to change the rankings and give him the gold and Hamm the silver. Hamm and the U.S. Olympic Committee promise to vigorously fight Yang's appeal.

"That's why we're all here, to keep the medal," Hamm told Associated Press Television News as he arrived in Switzerland.

"After it's all done, hopefully the medal will stay with me."

Sports briefs

Robinson to retire from UNLV

LAS VEGAS — UNLV coach John Robinson will retire at the end of the season because of family issues, leaving the struggling program with one year left on his contract.

Tips: Rebels fell to 0-4 after a 31-21 loss at home to Utah State on Saturday. Robinson, who had two coaching stints at Southern California and another with the NFL's Los Angeles Rams, is 26-37 in six seasons with UNLV.

Leslie is WNBA's top defender

LOS ANGELES — Lisa Leslie of the Los Angeles Sparks was named the WNBA's defensive player of the year Sunday.

Yolanda Griffith of the Sacramento Monarchs finished second in voting by a national panel of sportswriters and broadcasters.



Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki strokes his 251st hit of the year in the sixth inning on Sunday against Texas.

Suzuki six away from hits record

The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Ichiro Suzuki moved within six of the season hits record, going 1-for-4 with an intentional walk Sunday as the Seattle Mariners beat Texas 9-0, damaging the Rangers' postseason aspirations.

Suzuki's sixth-inning single, his major league record 215th of the season, increased his hit total to 251. He has seven games remaining to reach the record of 257, set by George Sisler of the St. Louis Browns in 1920.

Suzuki, who was 4-for-13 in the three-game set, managed the only hit off Texas reliever Kameron Loe, who went 2½ innings as the Rangers' only effective pitcher of the day.

Texas, meanwhile, managed just three hits off rookies Cha Seung Baek and Scott Atchison.

"Any loss at this point is a tough loss," Texas shortstop Michael Young said. "We realize this loss is not the end of the season, but it does make it tougher on us."

The Rangers started their final homestand with a three-game sweep of AL West-leading Oakland, advancing the starting trio of Mark Mulder, Barry Zito and Tim Lincecum. They got within two games, but missed out on a chance to get closer by losing two of three to Seattle.

The Rangers remained two back of Oakland and one behind Anaheim, which began a four-game series at Texas on Monday. After that, Anaheim plays three games against Oakland and Texas closes with three at Seattle.

Season hits leaders

Player	Through Sept. 26	Year	No.
George Sisler	1920	254	254
Bill Terry	1920	254	254
(tie) Lefty O'Doul	1920	254	254
A. J. Simmons	1920	254	254
S. Ichiro Suzuki	2004	251	251
E. Rogers Hornsby	1920	250	250
(tie) Chuck Klein	1920	250	250
A. J. Van Dyke	1920	248	248
G. George Sisler	1922	246	246
I. Ichiro Suzuki	2001	242	242

Anaheim claws within one of A's

Glaus drives in three runs as Angels batter ineffective ace Mulder

BY BETH HARRIS

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Anaheim Angels know how to bounce back.

John Lackey left behind early before Anaheim rallied behind three RBIs from Troy Glaus to beat Oakland 6-2 on Sunday and close within one game of the AL West-leading Athletics with a week to play.

"We got to keep pushing," Lackey said. "We got to be at our best these next couple of games."

After losing Friday's series opener, the Angels won two straight and head to Texas for a four-game series starting Monday before closing with three games at Oakland. The A's, who hold a two-game lead over the Rangers, host Seattle for four games starting Monday.

"It's going to be an interesting finish," Oakland manager Ken Mack said.

Mark Mulder (17-7) was knocked out in the fourth inning, his shortest outing this season. Oakland, which has had sole possession of the division lead since Aug. 6, dropped to 10-14 in September.

"If we don't turn it around, we're in trouble," left fielder Eric Byrnes said.

Before the game, the Angels suspended left fielder Jose Guillen for the rest of the season for an outburst after being lifted for a pinch runner a day earlier and said he would remain suspended if the team advances to the postseason. Guillen is hitting .294 with 297 homers and a career-high 140 RBIs.

"He understands the line he crossed," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "We had to do something with Jose. It was an issue getting the line of what is winning."

Lackey (14-12) gave up two runs and four hits in seven innings, improving to 10-4 since June 16 and squaring the season series 8-8.

"My changeup has made my fastball more effective. It's really been a great tool for me. I



Troy Glaus is welcomed back to the Angels dugout after his third-inning home against Oakland.

had a breakthrough game with it against Texas," he said, referring to a July 28 victory. "Ever since then I've really trusted it."

Glaus and David Eckstein homered for Anaheim, which pulled away with two runs in the eighth off Arthur Rhodes.

Mulder gave up four runs and six hits in 3½ innings, his second straight poor performance. On Tuesday, he lasted four innings in a 9-4 loss at Texas, giving up nine runs.

"Everything kind of feels flat, and nothing is really sinking the way it should. It's just kind of sliding across the strike zone, and that's making things a little more hittable," Mulder said. "He usually would never come at me that early, but I've also never pitched the way that I'm pitching right now. I'm not going to help the team by doing what I'm doing."

Mulder is scheduled to start Friday, but Macha said he would discuss it with the left-hander on Monday.

"It's extremely difficult. He's our horse. We've relied on him all year," Macha said. "The kid does nothing but give you all he's got out there, but he's in a pennant race."

Eric Chavez hit a sacrifice fly to drive in Oakland's first run in the first inning, but Glaus' RBI single tied the game in the bottom half.

Guillen's replacement, Adam Riggs, gave the Angels a 2-1 lead with an RBI double in the second. Glaus hit a two-run homer in the third that made it 4-1.

One of Lackey's two wild pitches led to Oakland's second run, scoring Byrnes in the fifth.

Oakland put two on with one out in the eighth, but Erubiel Durazo flew out against Francisco Rodriguez — Durazo was frustrated that he tapped his bat against his helmet — and Jermaine Dye grounded out.

Bengie Molina squeezed home a run for the Angels in the bottom half, and Eckstein homered later in the inning.

Red Sox rolling again after rout of Yanks

The Associated Press

BOSTON — A bench-clearing confrontation and a big-name pitching matchup raised the Yankees-Red Sox rivalry a notch. And the teams could meet again in 10 days.

Boston's 11-4 victory on Sunday was its second straight after losing the series opener, just as the Yankees won the last two a week earlier in New York after the Red Sox won the opener.

"It's very huge" to reverse the outcome, Boston's Johnny Damon said. "We felt like we played them very well this year, and it may not be over."

The Yankees led the Red Sox by 3½ games in the AL East. Boston, with seven road games left, leads Anaheim by six games for the AL wild-card berth and could meet New York for the second straight year in the league championship series if both get past the first round.

"You know every single one of these games takes on a life of its own," Yankees manager Joe Torre said.

There were plenty of highlights in the latest game, started by two

AL Roundup

of the best pitchers to change uniforms in the offseason.

Boston's Curt Schilling (21-6) allowed one hit — Jorge Posada's two-run single in the fourth — in seven innings. New York's Kevin Brown (10-5), in his first outing since Sept. 3 when he broke his non-pitching hand while punching a clubhouse wall in frustration, retired just two batters and allowed four hits and six runs.

The Red Sox made it 7-0 in the second against Esteban Loaiza.

The game settled down until the eighth, when Boston's Pedro Astacio and New York's Brad Hawley were ejected for throwing too close to hitters.

"It's a heated rivalry," said Dave Roberts, who ducked away from Hawley's high and tight pitch. "There's respect between the teams, but there's definitely no love lost."

The benches and bullpens cleared after the pitch to Roberts, but opposing players stayed apart. On July 24, there were

punches and headlocks on the same field after Boston's Bronson Arroyo hit Alex Rodriguez, who then was shoved in the face by catcher Jason Varitek after they exchanged words.

Halsey denied he was throwing at Roberts, but he and Torre were ejected because plate umpire Jim Wolf had warned both teams after Astacio's pitch flew behind Kenny Lofton in the top of the inning. Lofton said the Red Sox appeared to seek retaliation for a play in the bottom of the third when he was thrown out on a ground ball and elbowed first baseman Doug Mientkiewicz.

"The next inning, I think, they were trying to start something," Lofton said.

The next inning, though, was Schilling's word. With one out, he walked Rodriguez, Gary Sheffield and Hideki Matsui on 12 straight pitches, then allowed Posada's single to center that made it 7-2.

He struck out six, walked four, improved his home record to 12-1 and broke a tie with Minnesota's Johan Santana for the major league lead in victories.

Twins 6, Indians 2: Omar

Vizquel got a warm sendoff in possibly his final home game for Cleveland. The Indians' shortstop went 1-for-4 in the team's home finale.

Carlos Silva (14-8) allowed one run and eight hits in seven innings, improving to 4-0 in his last eight starts. The AL Central champion Twins reached 90 victories for the third straight season as Jacques Jones had two RBIs off Francisco Cordero (0-1).

Orioles 5, Tigers 0: Rodrigo Lopez (14-8) pitched a three-hitter for his second career shutout and host Baltimore completed a 6-0 season sweep.

Miguel Tejada homered and drove in three runs, giving him a major league lead in 1996 and tying the club record set in 1996 by Rafael Palmeiro. B.J. Surhoff also connected for the Orioles.

White Sox 5, Royals 1: Jon Garland (11-11) gave up one run and five hits in 8½ innings and Danys Marte finished for his sixth save. Wilson Valdez hit his first career homer, a drive off Brian Anderson (5-12), as the visiting Royals dropped to 57-98, two off the club record for losses set in 2002.



San Francisco center fielder Marquis Grissom drops Milton Bradley's fly ball in the ninth inning Sunday, leading to the final Los Angeles run in the Dodgers' 7-4 victory over the Giants. L.A. leads the Giants by 2½ games in the NL West heading into the last week of the season.

Giants drop the ball

Despite Bonds' 703rd, L.A. wins two of three in S.F.

BY GREG BEACHAM

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Jim Tracy has spent many evenings in the visiting manager's office in San Francisco, explaining how the Los Angeles Dodgers lost a big game or how another lost season got away.

So when the Dodgers earned a victory to take control of their division race against their longtime rivals, Tracy was determined to enjoy this room for once.

"It's a lot more fun to be here when you win," Tracy said Sunday after the Dodgers finished a 7-4 victory over the Giants.

Alex Cora homered and drove in two runs for the second straight day. Eric Gagne got the final six outs and the Dodgers moved 2½ games ahead of the Giants by taking two of three weekend games in San Francisco.

"It's right in front of us," said Shawn Green, who walked four times — including once with the bases loaded to force in the go-ahead run. "We've just got to have a solid last week of the season, and it's ours. It's pretty cut and dried."

Barry Bonds' 703rd home gave the Giants a third-inning lead, but Gagne, Cora and Green were among several heroes for the Dodgers, who manufactured more than enough runs to win it.

"It's right in front of us. We've just got to have a solid last week of the season, and it's ours."

Shawn Green

Dodgers outfielder

"We're in great shape right now," said Gagne, who got his 45th save in 47 chances. "We've still got to win some games, but it looks good."

Jayson Werth hit an early two-run homer off Brett Tomko, who lost for the first time in 12 starts since July 29. Jeff Weaver (13-12) allowed nine hits over six innings for his first victory in six starts, resourcefully keeping Los Angeles on top until his bullpen could take over.

Relievers Mike Venafro and Giovanni Carrara got big outs in the seventh, holding San Francisco to one run in its rally. The Giants put two runners on in the ninth when Bonds beat out an infield single and J.T. Snow walked, but Gagne struck out Delvis Cruz to end it.

Cruz had three hits and an RBI for the Giants (87-69), who wast-

ed a chance to reclaim the wild-card lead from the Chicago Cubs (87-68).

"This was the most mentally challenging and exhausting game I've been here," said Snow, a Giant since 1997. "The whole series was that way. We'd go up, they'd go up. We just have to play better, that's all there is to it. We're doing the chasing, and we just have to play better."

Los Angeles' fifth-inning rally got an assist from third base umpire Doug Eddings, who called Cesar Izturis safe on a tag play with one out. Giants manager Felipe Alou argued the call, and several replays appeared to show Izturis was out.

Tomko (11-7) couldn't escape the fifth, leaving after Adrian Beltré drew a walk to load the bases. Tomko yelled at Eddings on the way to the dugout.

"That call at third was the difference," Tomko said. "If we get that call, I get out of the inning and I keep pitching. It changed everything."

Green then walked on a 3-2 pitch from reliever Wayne Franklin to give Los Angeles a 4-3 lead. Cora led off the sixth with a shot off Franklin, his 10th.

Marquis Grissom dropped Milton Bradley's fly to center for a three-base error in the ninth, allowing Green to score from first. It was Grissom's first error in 170 games.

Alou steamed after Cubs stumble in wild-card chase

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Moises Alou measured his words, trying to control his anger. Eventually, the frustration spilled over and the Chicago Cubs slugger let loose.

Alou was called out on strikes twice by plate umpire Bill Miller during a 3-2 loss Sunday to the lowly New York Mets, preventing Chicago from increasing its lead in the NL wild-card race.

"The guy had a terrible strike zone," Alou said. "It was terrible, not even close. I think because I argue, they're after me. Is it a coincidence? I don't know, but they're baiting me. It's like guarding Shaq with five fouls."

Alou struck out Alou with the bases loaded to end the fifth. Alou glared at the umpire, dropped his helmet at the plate and walked away.

"It was definitely a strike. I looked at the replay," Mets catcher John Phillips said. "It's where it crossed the plate, not where I catch it."

In the eighth, Miller called Alou out on strikes again, and he made a long, agonizingly slow walk back to the dugout.

"I'm not a guy to complain. But just make the right call. If they make the right call, it's tied and we'd still be playing right now," Alou said.

Maybe the Cubs should be more concerned about their offense. They managed only seven runs in 30 innings over the weekend, losing two of three games to the four-place Mets.

That could be costly. Chicago is only a half-game in front of San Francisco in the



San Diego baserunner Mark Loretta scores ahead of the tag attempt by Arizona's Juan Brito during the first inning of Sunday's game. The Padres beat the Diamondbacks 7-1.

wild-card chase, with Houston and San Diego far behind. The Giants lost 7-4 to Los Angeles.

The fifth-inning strikeout of Alou was the turning point for Leiter (10-8), who pitched two-hit ball for six innings to earn his first victory in six weeks.

"For a team that's out of it, there's a responsibility to try and win the game against a potential playoff team," Leiter said. "There's a consequence to the other team. It feels good to play well against a playoff-caliber team."

The Mets gave him an early cushion, scoring three runs in the first by capitalizing on a wild stretch by Chicago starter Kerry Wood (8-8).

Leadoff batter Jose Reyes walked, stole second and scored on a single by Kaz Matsui. After a double play, rookies Craig Bra-

zell and Victor Diaz singled. Then Eric Valenzuela and Jason Phillips were hit by pitched balls in one run, and a bases-loaded walk to Gerald Williams brought in another.

Astros 11, Brewers 7: Raul Chavez drove in a career-high five runs, helping visiting Houston move within 1½ games of the wild-card lead.

Lance Berkman and Jeff Kent homered for the Astros, who return home to play St. Louis and Colorado three games each in the final week of the season.

Kent hit a three-run homer off Victor Santos (11-12), pulling within two of Ryne Sandberg's major league record of 277 for a second baseman. It was Kent's 299th home overall.

Tim Redding (5-7), the third of eight Astros pitchers, got the win.

Padres 7, Diamondbacks 1: Jake Peavy lowered his NL-leading ERA to 2.25 and the host Padres closed within 2½ games of the wild-card lead. San Diego remained 4½ games behind Los Angeles in the NL West.

Working on three days' rest for the first time in his 2½-year career, the 23-year-old Peavy (14-6) allowed one run and three hits in six innings. He needs to pitch 1½ more innings this season to qualify for the ERA+ title.

Brewers 6, Marlins 3: John Thomson (14-8) allowed one run and four hits in seven innings, improving to 5-0 in seven starts since Aug. 15. Visiting Florida has lost six straight — its longest skid since May 2003.

Chipper Jones drove in two runs for Atlanta, increasing his total to 95 with six games remaining.

Cardinals 9, Rockies 3: Albert Pujols hit his 46th homer and Jason Marquis pitched seven innings as visiting St. Louis won its fifth straight. Pujols was 4-for-5 with four RBIs.

Todd Helton hit a two-run homer, but the Rockies closed their worst home season with a 38-43 record.

Marquis (15-6) joined Jeff Suppan, Chris Carpenter and Matt Morris to give St. Louis four 15-game winners for the first time in 60 years.

Phillies 2, Expos 1: Bobby Abreu hit a two-run double to break a solid outing by Cory Lidle (11-12). A knip cap promotion helped draw a crowd of 12,382. The Expos, expected to be relocated for 2005, began a three-game series Monday against Florida in what will likely be the final major league games in Montreal. Iivan Hernandez (11-15) allowed two runs in eight innings.

Pirates 4, Reds 2: Mike Redman hit two run-scoring singles as the host Pirates stopped a five-game skid.

Singh nearing \$10M in earnings for year

The Associated Press

FARMINGTON, Pa. — Vijay Singh broke the PGA Tour single-year money record Tiger Woods set while winning three majors in 2000, holding off Stewart Cink to win the 84 Lumber Classic by one shot Sunday for his third consecutive victory.

Singh's eighth championship this year pushed his money total to \$9,455,566 in 26 events, surpassing Woods' \$9,188,321 while he was winning nine times in 20 events in 2000. With Singh expected to play four more times, he could become the first to win \$10 million in one year.

"I'm going to try," Singh said. "It's a run I hope never ends. I'm enjoying it so much and I feel like every time I enter a tournament, I should win it. I'm really proud of the way I'm playing right now."

Singh led from start to finish for his fifth victory in six tournaments, the best such streak since Tiger won six in a row to end 1999 and start 2000. Singh has won seven times in his last 16 events.

Chris DiMarco tied for third with Pat Perez and Zach Johnson after starting the round two back.

Singh had a three-under 69, his third round in the 60s in four days, to finish at 15-under 273. Cink, five off the lead when the day started, had five straight birdies from No. 7 through No. 11 to make a move, but a bogey on the par-14th dropped him three back.

Golf roundup

Singh then held on despite a bogey on the par-4 18th.

Kim charges past Webb

AUBURN, Calif. — Christina Kim made a charge on the back nine, shooting a 6-under 65 in the Longs Drugs Challenge for a one-shot victory over Karrie Webb and her first LPGA win.

Kim, who was the first-round leader with a 64, made five birdies on the back side in finishing with an 18-under 266 at The Ridge Golf Club.

Webb had a chance to force a playoff on the final hole, but missed a 7-foot birdie attempt. Webb shot a 64 that included two birdies on the front side and an eagle to move into contention. She shared the lead until Kim's birdie on the 17th.

Stadler wins third straight

CARY, N.C. — Craig Stadler became the first player in more than six years to win three straight tournaments on the Champions Tour, making birdies on the final three holes to win the SAS Championship with a tournament-record 17-under-par 192.

He beat Tom Jenkins by six strokes.

Stadler closed with a 6-under 66 to avoid any real challenge from Jenkins, who shot a 68. Jose Maria Canizares (66) and Doug Tewell (67) tied for third at 20 under.

Eagles remain unbeaten, pin first defeat on Lions

The Associated Press

DETROIT — Donovan McNabb threw for 356 yards and two touchdowns and ran for a score to lead the Philadelphia Eagles to a 30-13 win over the Detroit Lions in the lone game between unbeaten teams Sunday.

Terrill Owens caught six passes for 107 yards and a TD for the Eagles, 3-0 for the first time since they won their first four in 1993. Rookie receiver Roy Williams had nine receptions for 135 yards and one TD — for the second straight week — for the Lions, who had a chance to go 3-0 for the first time since 1980.

Other than games to avoid or end fantasy records, the Lions played in their biggest matchup since the 2000 finale, when they lost to Chicago and fell to 9-7 and out of the playoffs. That setback led to the hiring of president and general manager Matt Millen and the hiring of Marty Mornhinweg, now Philadelphia's assistant head coach.

For the Eagles, it was just another opportunity to show they're among the NFL's elite.

McNabb fell just 34 yards short of his career high, a 390-yard game in 2000 against Cleveland, and surpassed his 330-yard performance in this year's opening win over the Giants. He has thrown eight TDs and run for two without throwing an interception through three games.

Detroit quarterback Joey Harrington was 21-for-38 for 199 yards with two TDs.

Injuries hurt the Lions in the first quarter, when running back Kevin Jones (right ankle) and fullback Cory Schlesinger (hand strain) were sidelined. Shawn Bryson ran for 43 yards, and Arthur Penner added just 16 yards rushing.

Vikings 27, Bears 22: At Minnesota, Culpepper threw two touchdowns passes to Randy Moss and ran for another score. Culpepper completed 19 of 30 passes for 360 yards, 119 of them to Moss.

NFL roundup

Onterio Smith had 94 yards rushing and 104 yards receiving for Minnesota (2-1).

Culpepper fumbled twice in the first half, but the Vikings recovered both. Chicago (1-2), meanwhile, repeatedly drove deep into Vikings territory but didn't score a touchdown until 6:20 was left.

The Bears lost quarterback Rex Grossman, who scored on a 6-yard scramble at the 2-minute warning, but he sprained his right knee on the play and left the stadium wearing a brace and using a crutch. Grossman went 21-for-31 for 248 yards.

Thomas Jones rushed for 110 yards and added 71 yards receiving for the Bears.

Morten Andersen, who made field goals of 42 and 24 yards, broke George Blanda's NFL record for career games played. It was the 44-year-old Andersen's 341st appearance, spanning 23 seasons.

Broncos 23, Chargers 13: A roughing-the-punter penalty kept a drive alive for the Broncos (2-1), then Ashley Lelie made a sensational 33-yard TD grab on a fourth down that shifted the momentum.

Earlier, the Chargers recovered Quentin Griffin's third lost fumble of the season and converted it into a touchdown to cut Denver's lead to 13-10.

Jake Plummer finished with 294 yards and two touchdowns, including a 16-yarder to Rod Smith.

Griffin has now lost fumbles in all three games this season. He never appeared to be running with confidence and finished with 7 yards on 12 carries, part of a meager 30-yard rushing total for the Broncos.

LaDainian Tomlinson ran for 60 yards for San Diego (1-2) and has yet to break the 100-yard mark in four games at Denver.

Ravens 23, Bengals 9: At Cincinnati, Jamal Lewis continued his habit of rushing for at least 100 yards against the Bengals (1-2). He ran for 186, including a 75-yard touchdown sprint.

Kyle Boller ran for a touchdown and threw for another, but had two costly fumbles that prevented the Ravens (2-1) from pulling away until Lewis' fourth-quarter run.

Lewis has seven 100-yard efforts in as many games against Cincinnati.

Carson Palmer was 25-for-52 for 316 yards, but got sacked four times and threw three interceptions, two of them to safety Ed Reed near the end zone.

Giants 27, Browns 10: Michael Strahan, the career leader among active players in sacks, got Jeff Garcia twice and also had two fumble recoveries to help New York (2-1) win its second straight under Tom Coughlin and hand visiting Cleveland (1-2) its second straight loss.

QB Kurt Warner scored his second career regular-season TD on a 1-yard run.

"Stray was just damn game that we needed to win that game and we needed to have our mind right on the field," said fellow defensive end Keith Washington.

Falcons 6, Cardinals 3: The Falcons improved to 3-0 for the first time since 1986 by forcing Arizona quarterback Josh McCown into three fumbles and getting a pair of field goals by Jay Feely.

The visiting Cardinals (0-3) lost three fumbles inside the Falcons' 20.

There were nine fumbles (three resulting in turnovers), five calls reviewed by the referee (two were overturned) and not one touchdown despite countless opportunities by both teams.

Warrick Dunn rushed for 117 yards and Michael Vick ran for 58 yards on a bootleg — the longest carry of his career.

Duel: Receivers enjoy career days

DUEL, FROM BACK PAGE

Walker also had his best day as a pro, catching 11 passes for 198 yards and three TDs — before fumbling away Green Bay's comeback chance.

"That shouldn't have happened," he said. "I should have secured the ball."

The Colts did anything they wanted against the Packers defense.

Manning exploited the gaping holes in a secondary that was without starting cornerback Mike McKenzie and nickel back Ahmad Carroll. McKenzie's replacement, Michael Hawthorne, was also out for part of the game because of a blow to the head.

"I heard Coach Dungy say we

may throw it 50 times, and I just looked at him and said, 'Did I just hear that right?' Manning said."

Manning opened the game with a 36-yard TD pass to Wayne, a 28-yard score to Marvin Harrison and a 34-yard score to Stokley.

Favre countered with two TD tosses to Walker — a 36-yarder and the 70-yarder that made it 21-14 just 10:49 into the game.

There were so many scores, even Favre lost count.

Favre joked of Manning: "Aside from throwing four touchdowns passes in the first quarter, I thought he was average."

Favre tried to rally the Packers in the second half.

Trailing 35-17, Favre threw a 12-yard TD pass to Walker in the

third quarter and got Green Bay to 38-31 after Donald Driver hopped down the sideline for a 27-yard TD catch with 13:12 to go.

The Packers then forced two three-and-outs and appeared to be moving on a game-tying drive midway through the fourth quarter when Favre hit Walker on a 6-yard completion.

But as Walker tried to break the tackle, David, a fourth-round draft pick, swatted the ball. Harper recovered it, and the Colts converted with Edgerrin James' 1-yard TD run with 1:49 left.

"Jason knew he was going to get tested, and he finally came back to make a play when it really mattered," Dungy said. "That was great to see."

NFL scoreboard

American Conference

East	W	L	T	PF	PA
New England	1	0	1	100	59
N. Jets	0	2	0	60	54
Buffalo	0	2	0	20	26
Miami	0	2	0	23	46
South					
Jacksonville	0	0	1	100	35
Indianapolis	1	0	0	60	75
Atlanta	1	0	0	53	76
Tennessee	1	2	0	33	46
North					
Baltimore	1	0	0	66	54
Pittsburgh	1	0	0	67	54
Cincinnati	1	2	0	33	49
Cleveland	1	2	0	33	42
West					
Oakland	1	0	0	66	54
San Diego	1	2	0	33	67
Kansas City	1	0	0	50	30

National Conference

East	W	L	T	PF	PA
Philadelphia	1	0	1	100	58
N.Y. Giants	1	0	0	66	34
Washington	1	0	0	50	30
South					
Atlanta	3	0	0	100	61
Carolina	1	0	0	50	41
Tampa Bay	1	0	0	30	36
North					
Detroit	1	0	0	66	61
Green Bay	1	0	0	67	50
Chicago	1	2	0	33	57
Green	1	2	0	33	57
West					
Seattle	0	0	1	100	65
St. Louis	1	0	0	33	59
San Francisco	0	3	0	0	45

Sunday's Results

Atlanta at Arizona	3	0	0	100	61
Philadelphia 39, Detroit 13					
N.Y. Giants 27, Cleveland 10					
Indianapolis 28, Pittsburgh 10					
New Orleans 28, St. Louis 25, OT					
Los Angeles 15, Tennessee 12					
Cincinnati 23, Cincinnati 13					
Minnesota 27, Chicago 22					
San Diego 20, San Diego 13					
Indianapolis 45, Green Bay 31					
Seattle 34, San Francisco 10					
Pittsburgh 13, Miami 3					
San Francisco 24, Tampa Bay 10					
Open: Buffalo, New England, N.Y. Jets, Carolina					
Monday's game					
Oakland at Houston					
Thursday, Oct. 3					
Philadelphia at Chicago					
Green Bay at Green Bay					
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh					
New England at Buffalo					
Washington at Washington					
Atlanta at Arizona					
Atlanta at Carolina					
N.Y. Jets at Atlanta					
Tennessee at San Diego					
N.Y. Jets at Tampa Bay					
St. Louis at San Francisco					
San Francisco at Minnesota					
Monday, Oct. 4					
Kansas City at Baltimore					

Sunday

Falcons 6, Cardinals 3					
Arizona 0	0	0	0	3	0
Atlanta 0	0	0	0	3	0
First Quarter					
ATL—Feely 25, 7:12					
Second Quarter					
ATL—Feely 23, 12:01					
Third Quarter					
ATL—Feely Backers 20, 9:24					
ATL—70:34					
Fourth Quarter					
ATL—Feely Backers 20, 9:24					
ATL—70:34					
First Downs					
ATL—28	13	15			
Rushes—yards	26-61	30-109			
Passing—yards	19-26	19-109			
Punt Returns	3	6	2-8		
Interceptions Ret.	1	1	0-0		
Sacked-Yards Lost	25-0	1-11			
Fumbles-Lost	6-59	5-26			
Time of Possession	34:37	23:23			

Individual Statistics

Rushing—Arizona , Clinton 16-66, McCown 6-10, Hanratty 1-3, K. Williams 1-13, K. Williams 29-117, Vick 26-88, Price 1-8.					
Passing—Arizona , McCown 20-29-9, 198, K. Williams 16-25-2, 206, Price 1-8.					
Receiving—Arizona , K. Williams 6-80, M. Williams 4-62, Fitzgerald 2-20, D. Moore 2-24, J. Jones 2-11, Smith 2-11, S. Coker 1-7, D. Moore 1-5, Atlanta, Griffin 2-35, K. Campbell 2-34, Dunn 2-20, Price 2-16, White 1-20.					
Missed field goals—None.					
Eagles 30, Lions 13					
Philadelphia 17	7	6	0	13	
First Quarter					
PHI—McNabb 1 run (Akers kick), 2:08.					
PHI—Owens 29 pass from McNabb (Akers kick), 5:28.					
Second Quarter					
PHI—Barrum 1 pass from McNabb (Akers kick), 5:59.					
PHI—Barrum 1 pass from McNabb (Akers kick), 5:59.					
Third Quarter					
PHI—Akers 26, 9:41.					
PHI—McNabb 3 run (Wilkins kick), 13:34.					
Fourth Quarter					
PHI—Akers 39, 10:22.					
DET—M. Williams 9 pass from Harrington (Harrison kick), 2:00.					
DET—M. Williams 9 pass from Harrington (Harrison kick), 2:00.					

Individual Statistics

Rushing—Eagles , Clinton 16-66, McCown 6-10, Hanratty 1-3, K. Williams 1-13, K. Williams 29-117, Vick 26-88, Price 1-8.					
Passing—Eagles , Clinton 16-66, McCown 6-10, Hanratty 1-3, K. Williams 1-13, K. Williams 29-117, Vick 26-88, Price 1-8.					
Receiving—Eagles , Clinton 16-66, McCown 6-10, Hanratty 1-3, K. Williams 1-13, K. Williams 29-117, Vick 26-88, Price 1-8.					
Missed field goals—None.					

First Downs					
DET—28	18	25			
Rushes—yards	19-59	18-77			
Passing—yards	21-23	27-02			
Punt Returns	4	6	9-10		
Interceptions Ret.	3	0	0-0		
Sacked-Yards Lost	29-42	0-13			
Fumbles-Lost	4-51	7-48			
Penalties-Yards	35-258	21-151			
Time of Possession	27:54	39:06			
Individual Statistics					
Rushing—Detroit , Westbrook 7-32, Owens 6-32, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10.					
Passing—Detroit , Westbrook 7-32, Owens 6-32, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10.					
Receiving—Detroit , Westbrook 7-32, Owens 6-32, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10.					
Missed field goals—None.					

Giants 27, Browns 10

First Downs					
NYG—28	18	25			
Rushes—yards	23-124	32-116			
Passing—yards	21-23	27-02			
Punt Returns	4	6	9-10		
Interceptions Ret.	3	0	0-0		
Sacked-Yards Lost	29-42	0-13			
Fumbles-Lost	4-51	7-48			
Penalties-Yards	35-258	21-151			
Time of Possession	27:54	39:06			
Individual Statistics					
Rushing—New York , Westbrook 7-32, Owens 6-32, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10.					
Passing—New York , Westbrook 7-32, Owens 6-32, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10.					
Receiving—New York , Westbrook 7-32, Owens 6-32, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10.					
Missed field goals—None.					

Texans 24, Chiefs 21

First Downs					
TEX—28	18	25			
Rushes—yards	23-124	32-116			
Passing—yards	21-23	27-02			
Punt Returns	4	6	9-10		
Interceptions Ret.	3	0	0-0		
Sacked-Yards Lost	29-42	0-13			
Fumbles-Lost	4-51	7-48			
Penalties-Yards	35-258	21-151			
Time of Possession	27:54	39:06			
Individual Statistics					
Rushing—Houston , Westbrook 7-32, Owens 6-32, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10.					
Passing—Houston , Westbrook 7-32, Owens 6-32, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10.					
Receiving—Houston , Westbrook 7-32, Owens 6-32, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10.					
Missed field goals—None.					

Colts 45, Packers 31

First Downs					
COL—28	18	25			
Rushes—yards	23-124	32-116			
Passing—yards	21-23	27-02			
Punt Returns	4	6	9-10		
Interceptions Ret.	3	0	0-0		
Sacked-Yards Lost	29-42	0-13			
Fumbles-Lost	4-51	7-48			
Penalties-Yards	35-258	21-151			
Time of Possession	27:54	39:06			
Individual Statistics					
Rushing—Colts , Westbrook 7-32, Owens 6-32, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10.					
Passing—Colts , Westbrook 7-32, Owens 6-32, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10.					
Receiving—Colts , Westbrook 7-32, Owens 6-32, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10.					
Missed field goals—None.					

First Downs					
NO—28	18	25			
Rushes—yards	23-124	32-116			
Passing—yards	21-23	27-02			
Punt Returns	4	6	9-10		
Interceptions Ret.	3	0	0-0		
Sacked-Yards Lost	29-42	0-13			
Fumbles-Lost	4-51	7-48			
Penalties-Yards	35-258	21-151			
Time of Possession	27:54	39:06			
Individual Statistics					
Rushing—New Orleans , Westbrook 7-32, Owens 6-32, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10.					
Passing—New Orleans , Westbrook 7-32, Owens 6-32, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10.					
Receiving—New Orleans , Westbrook 7-32, Owens 6-32, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10.					
Missed field goals—None.					

Jaguars 15, Titans 12

First Downs					
JAX—28	18	25			
Rushes—yards	23-124	32-116			
Passing—yards	21-23	27-02			
Punt Returns	4	6	9-10		
Interceptions Ret.	3	0	0-0		
Sacked-Yards Lost	29-42	0-13			
Fumbles-Lost	4-51	7-48			
Penalties-Yards	35-258	21-151			
Time of Possession	27:54	39:06			
Individual Statistics					
Rushing—Jacksonville , Westbrook 7-32, Owens 6-32, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10.					
Passing—Jacksonville , Westbrook 7-32, Owens 6-32, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10.					
Receiving—Jacksonville , Westbrook 7-32, Owens 6-32, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10.					
Missed field goals—None.					

Ravens 23, Bengals 9

First Downs					
RAV—28	18	25			
Rushes—yards	23-124	32-116			
Passing—yards	21-23	27-02			
Punt Returns	4	6	9-10		
Interceptions Ret.	3	0	0-0		
Sacked-Yards Lost	29-42	0-13			
Fumbles-Lost	4-51	7-48			
Penalties-Yards	35-258	21-151			
Time of Possession	27:54	39:06			
Individual Statistics					
Rushing—Baltimore , Westbrook 7-32, Owens 6-32, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10.					
Passing—Baltimore , Westbrook 7-32, Owens 6-32, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10.					
Receiving—Baltimore , Westbrook 7-32, Owens 6-32, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10, C. Lewis 3-18, B. Westbrook 2-10.					
Missed field goals—None.					

Vikings 27, Bears 22

14	Taylor	1-minus	77	Cincinnati,
C. Johnson	6-99	Houshmandzadeh	7-116	
Washington	5-58	Schubel	3-28	Watson 2-25.
Missed field goals—None.				
Vikings 27, Bears 22				
Chicago		3	3	0 16-22
Minnesota		0	10	17-20
First Quarter				
Chi—FG	Edinger	34, 8:08.		
Second Quarter				
Min—Moss	3	pass	from Culpepper	(Andersen)
in kick	8:57			
Min—FG	Edinger	42, 5:09.		
Third Quarter				
Min—Culpepper	1	run	(Andersen kick),	10:58.
Fourth Quarter				
Chi—FG	Edinger	32, 14:46.		
Min—T-Jones	1	run	(pass failed),	11:20.
Chi—T-Jones	1	run	(pass failed),	6:20.
Min—Moss	2	pass	from Culpepper	(Andersen)
in kick	5:35			
Chi—Grossman	6	run	(Edinger kick),	2:04.
A—64,163.				

Steelers prevail over hurricane, Dolphins

Roethlisberger overcomes nasty weather to put Miami in 0-3 hole

BY STEVEN WINE

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Ben Roethlisberger's first pass was his worst.

The rookie overcame a slow start, remnants of Hurricane Jeanne and the Miami Dolphins' blitzing defense to help the Pittsburgh Steelers win 13 Sunday night.

Making his first NFL start, Roethlisberger was intercepted on his first play. But that was his lone costly mistake despite torrential rain in the first half that made the ball and footing slippery.

"It was muddy, and it was wet, but it was a lot of fun," said Roethlisberger, No. 11 pick in the April draft. "To come out playing in a hurricane against that type of defense was a challenge for us."

Roethlisberger went 12-for-22 for 163 yards and the only touchdown. Duce Staley ran for 101 yards, and Pittsburgh's defense did the rest, forcing four turnovers and making a key fourth-down stop.

"The weather in the first half was not conducive to doing anything," said coach Bill Cowher, whose team improved to 2-1. "We couldn't even do the ball. Both teams weren't throw it. But that's the kind of football I love."

The Dolphins fell to 0-3 for the first time since 1969, the year before Don Shula became coach. They've totaled 23 points this season.

"We've got to score some points," coach Dave Wannstedt said. "Let's get right down to the bottom line."

We've just got to find a way to make more plays."

Hines Ward scored all the points Pittsburgh needed by making a diving catch of a pass from Roethlisberger for a 7-yard touchdown.

Jeff Reed hit field goals of 40 and 51 yards, the latter coming after the Steelers stopped A.J. Feeley on a fourth-down quarterback sneak at midfield.

Announced attendance was 72,225, but with Florida just beginning to recover from its latest hurricane, the actual crowd was about 30,000. Officials decided Saturday to push the starting time back 7½ hours to avoid the worst of Hurricane Jeanne.

That meant a 48-hour wait in Miami before kickoff for the Steelers. The storm also forced them to sleep in stuffy rooms Saturday night, because Jeanne knocked out power at the team hotel from 8:30 p.m. to 5:20 a.m. Sunday.

"We lost power right in the mid-



Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger scrambles out of the pocket against the Miami Dolphins during a downpour in the third quarter at Pro Player Stadium in Miami on Sunday.

dle of films," Roethlisberger said. "We all had flashlights, and coach Cowher was trying to come get us all to play flashlight tag in the lobby. But I don't think that anyone went."

Heavy rain in the first half left standing water in the baseball infield, which made footing especially treacherous on that part of the field. The start of the second half was delayed so the grounds crew could apply additional bags of dirt.

"That was the worst weather I ever played in," Ward said.

It turned out to be Steelers weather, and their defense

bruised more than just the Dolphins' pride. A jarring tackle by Chris Hope sent running back Lamont Gordon from the game with an injured left shoulder, and his replacement, Leonard Henry, was knocked backward by a big hit from James Farrior.

Even before the heaviest rain, the Dolphins committed three turnovers on their first seven plays. The crowd was small but vocal, booing Feeley, the rest of the Dolphins' offense and the play-calling.

"They ought to boo us the whole time," said linebacker Zach Thomas, directing his com-

ments at the entire team. "We're not making big plays. Why would you pay for a ticket?"

Miami's best drive of the night covered 44 yards, setting up a 34-yard field goal by Orlando Mare with 13:25 left to make the score 6-3. But Roethlisberger drove the Steelers 61 yards for a touchdown with six minutes left.

The last rookie quarterback to beat the Dolphins was New England's Drew Bledsoe in 1994.

"Ben played well," Cowher said. "After the first play when he threw the interception, he bounced back. After that he made good decisions."

Backup QB Collins helps Raiders beat former coach

BY JANIE MCCAULEY

The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Kerry Collins is a former Super Bowl quarterback who backs up a former NFL MVP.

Who knows for how long.

Collins, injured in place of injured starter Rich Gannon, shined for the Oakland Raiders in Sunday night's emotional 30-20 win over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers — just like he did throughout the preseason.

When Gannon went down early after helmet-to-helmet hit, Collins took over and calmly led the Raiders in their highly anticipated reunion with former coach Jon Gruden, longtime Raiders receiver Tim Brown and running back Charlie Garner, who was likely lost for the season with a torn patellar tendon in his right knee.

As well as things went, Collins isn't counting on taking over the No. 1 job anytime soon.

"I know this, Rich Gannon is a tough guy, and if he's ready to go next week he'll be in there," said Collins, who joined the Raiders in May after the New York Giants released him when they acquired No. 1 pick Eli Manning.

"I'm just glad it wasn't real, real serious. Any time you get hit in the head like that, bad things can happen."



Oakland Raiders quarterback Rich Gannon grimaces after he was tackled by Tampa Bay Buccaneers linebacker Derrick Brooks.

Collins led four scoring drives, completing 16-of-27 passes for 228 yards and one touchdown.

After Jerry Rice's record receptions streak was snapped last week, Brown owns the longest active run, and he extended it to 176 games on a 7-yard reception with 14:29 left. Brown's 16-yard TD reception with 10:45 left was his 100th career touchdown catch — and the Bucs' first offensive TD of the season.

Brown passed Hall of Famer Don Hut-

son for fourth in career touchdown catches. He received a warm ovation from the otherwise hostile Raider Nation.

Brown, who spent his first 16 NFL seasons with the Raiders (2-1), was released during training camp when he refused to accept a drastically reduced role.

"To get 100 in front of the Raider Nation, there's no better place," Brown said.

There were more handshakes before this one than at a political fund-raiser. Warren Sapp had to love it.

Oakland's loquacious defensive tackle said this game was for bragging rights, and he beat his old team handily.

"Big buildup, great game and the right outcome," Sapp said.

Sapp, who led his new team onto the field, never played football outside of Florida until agreeing to a seven-year, \$36.6 million free agent contract after the Bucs didn't re-sign him.

Tampa Bay (0-3) looks nothing like the team that beat Oakland 48-21 in the 2003 Super Bowl in Gruden's first year as Bucs coach.

Before Brown's touchdown, Martin Gramatica kicked field goals of 36 and 30 yards. He missed a 44-yarder.

Brad Johnson threw for 309 yards, but Phillip Buchanon intercepted a pass and returned it 32 yards in the third quarter to

make it 23-6. Tyrone Wheatley capped his 102-yard day with a 2-yard score.

Collins connected with Ronald Curry for a 19-yard TD just before halftime — a play that included a key block by Rice.

Gannon left in the first quarter after the vicious hit by linebacker Derrick Brooks. Coach Norv Turner said Gannon hurt his neck, but added, "It doesn't seem to be too serious."

Gannon was taken to the locker room for examination, then returned to the sideline in the second half.

Garner was carted off the field with 5:57 left before halftime and didn't return.

Gruden, who coached the Raiders for four seasons, is 0-3 for the first time in his career, and Tampa Bay has lost five straight games dating to last season. The coach dressed in all black for a change, as if making a statement to his old team. He was on the field early saying hello to friends, then was booed when he ran onto the field before the game. He ran right past Raiders owner Al Davis without stopping.

"I don't mean any disrespect. I wasn't greeted very nicely," Gruden said. "I've got a full understanding of Raiders fans and the Black Hole. God bless them. ... It was a great feeling for me. It is one of the more exciting times in my career to go back where I came from."

Sebastian Janikowski kicked three field goals for Oakland.

Saints rally to snap Rams' streak at home

St. Louis stopped at 15 wins with OT loss

BY R.B. FALLSTROM

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Aaron Brooks stayed calm when he needed to rally the New Orleans Saints.

He had to do it twice. Brooks led a game-tying drive just before the end of regulation, then set up John Carney's 31-yard winning field goal in overtime in a 26-25 win Sunday over St. Louis, ending the Rams' 15-game regular-season home winning streak.

Brooks needed 22 seconds to lead the drive that forced overtime.

Then, after the Rams won the coin flip and went nowhere, Brooks calmly engineered the game-winning drive.

"It comes down to big plays, and our team knows that the more plays we make, the better off we'll be," Brooks said. "I think that was pretty much the difference down the stretch."

The Saints (2-1), who used to be bitter rivals in the NFC West with the Rams, have won their last three games in St. Louis.

"A lot of guys stepped up to the plate and made a lot of plays," coach Jim Haslett said. "I can't even name them all."

Fill-in running back Aaron Stecker had his first career 100-yard game to ease the loss of Deuce McAllister. Carney kicked five field goals and defensive end Charles Grant had three of his team's five sacks.

Isaac Bruce had his third straight 100-yard receiving day for the Rams, who are 1-2 for the second straight year. Last season they ended up winning the NFC West with a 12-4 record.

"I don't think we're floundering," offensive guard Adam Timmerman said. "That's a pretty bold statement. We are a team and we have to stick together right now."

Brooks was 24-for-41 for 316 yards and a touchdown, producing points on five straight possessions at one point, and was at his best when the Saints needed him most.

On the winning drive, he was 3-for-4 for 42 yards, and his 12-yard bootleg run to the St. Louis 13 set up Carney's 31-yard field goal on the next play. Brooks also helped the Saints rebound immediately after Marc Bulger's 19-yard scramble gave the Rams a 25-22 lead with 28 seconds left in regulation.

New Orleans started at its own 42 after Jeff Wilkins hit a line-drive squib kick to avoid return man Michael Lewis, and Brooks hit Lewis for 25 yards and Boo Williams for 13 to put Carney in position for the game-tying 38-yard field goal with 2 seconds left.

"It's not me alone," Brooks said. "It's the guys around me playing their heart out."

The unsung Stecker, who played at West-ern Illinois — the Rams' training home —



New Orleans Saints running back Aaron Stecker (27) heads for the end zone on a 42-yard touchdown run against the St. Louis Rams in the second quarter in St. Louis on Sunday.

was at the top of the list. He had 106 yards on 18 carries including a 42-yard scoring run to keep the Saints' running game clicking without McAllister, sidelined with a high ankle sprain.

"I had a lot of motivation this week," Stecker said. "Anytime I was watching ESPN or the NFL Network or looking at the paper it was like the season's done with, they've got a guy named Aaron Stecker, who's he? He hasn't done much, he ain't

going to do anything."

Bruce caught eight passes for 134 yards and Bulger was 32-for-49 for 358 yards and a touchdown. But the Rams never got the running game going, with 78 yards on only 15 carries against a team that allowed an NFL-high 174.5 yards a game the first two games.

Marshall Faulk had more yards in the air (five catches for 46 yards) than on the ground (44 yards on 12 carries).

Seahawks defense shuts down 49ers to stay perfect

BY TIM KORTE

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Start with eager youngsters who love to hit opposing receivers and ball carriers. Add a few aggressive veterans who fly to the ball. Hire a top-flight coordinator to coach them.

What do you get? The Seattle Seahawks on defense.

The Seahawks shut out San Francisco 34-0 Sunday, the first time the 49ers failed to score since a 7-0 loss to Atlanta at Candlestick Park on Oct. 9, 1977, breaking the team's NFL record spanning 40 regular season and 36 playoff games.

"At halftime, we came in and talked about it," defensive tackle Cedric Woodard said. "We had a chance to stop them, and they hadn't been shut out since the '70s. It sure was nice to be in that position. It was even better to go out and do it."

Matt Hasselbeck threw for 254 yards and two touchdowns, and Shaun Alexander scored three TDs to provide the offense for Seattle (3-0).

But the defense, which has allowed only 13 points in its first three games, simply shut down the 49ers (0-3).

Second-year quarterback Ken Dorsey was 19-for-32 for 153 yards with two interceptions. San Francisco had only 48 yards rushing and converted two of 13



Seattle Seahawks' Bobby Engram, left, fends off San Francisco 49ers' Jimmy Williams after catching a pass for a 60-yard gain in the first quarter in Seattle on Sunday.

third-down attempts.

Seattle swiped two fumbles, with the four takeaways leading to 10 easy points. Behind them is defensive coordinator Ray Rhodes, who tells his players to run to the ball and force turnovers.

"They don't know what they don't know," coach Mike Holmgren said. "They are just flying around, doing what they are

told to do."

The offense looked better after sputtering last week at Tampa Bay. Hasselbeck was 21-for-30, throwing a 3-yard TD pass to Alexander in the first quarter and adding a 1-yard TD pass in the third to Itula Mili.

Too bad the Seahawks can't play again next weekend. Seattle has a bye before St. Louis visits Oct. 10.

"I am most pleased that it was really a total team win — about as good as you can get," Holmgren said.

That's not how things looked for San Francisco. The 49ers were missing receiver Brandon Lloyd (groin) and tackle Kwame Harris (ankle). Center Jeremy Newberry had knee surgery last week.

But coach Dennis Erickson

wasn't offering excuses.

"We didn't play well against a good football team," he said. "We turned it over early in the game, got ourselves in a hole. We were lucky to finish the game. We just didn't play very well."

When the 49ers threatened in the fourth, Ken Hamlin made an interception in the end zone. San Francisco then drove to the Seattle 32 but Chike Okefor sacked Dorsey to force another fumble and Rashad Moore covered the loose ball.

The Seahawks also got big defensive performances from end Grant Wistrom, linebacker Anthony Simmons, cornerbacks Ken Lucas and Marcus Trufant, tackle Rocky Bernard and many others.

"It doesn't matter who gets the game ball," Moore said. "It was a day where you feel you're left out if you're not the guy making plays."

After wins on two long trips to New Orleans and Tampa Bay, the Seahawks kept rolling at home. They went 8-0 last season in Seattle and have won 10 straight at home going back to 2002.

"We're hot right now," Wistrom said. "We just have to continue to stay hungry and go out and try to prove something every week."

The Jags' edge: Defense

Jacksonville stifles McNair, beats Titans to improve to 3-0

By TERESA M. WALKER

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — If this keeps up, the Jacksonville Jaguars' defense will be called lucky for much longer.

Fred Taylor scored with 9 seconds left, and the Jaguars beat the Tennessee Titans 15-12 on Sunday and improved to 3-0, with each game won in the final seconds.

"Hopefully, we opened up some eyes," Jaguars defensive tackle Marcus Stroud said.

"If not, that's good for us, too. Let us continue to sneak in under the radar. Right now we're playing good ball, and I think people are taking notice."

Jacksonville's doing it with a defense that has allowed just 28 points for an offense that has scored only 35.

On Sunday, the Jaguars even sent 2003 co-MVP Steve McNair to the hospital for the night with a bruised sternum. He was hurt when he scrambled for 14 yards on a third-and-10 late in the fourth quarter.

The Jaguars also sacked McNair three times, intercepted him once and held the Titans (1-2) to 249 yards of offense.

"Our defense is outstanding," Taylor said. "They kept us in it and give us a chance to win. I don't want to say we have the luxury of starting slow, because that just isn't how you want to play."

The Jaguars now sit alone atop the AFC South after opening the season by downing Buffalo on a touchdown pass with no time left, then recovering a fumble to seal a victory over Denver last week.

This win means much more than the franchise's first 3-0 start since 1998. This came against the team that had won nine of 11 in this series, including all three in 1999 when the Titans won the AFC championship.

Receiver Jimmy Smith, one of four Jaguars left from that 1999



Jacksonville Jaguars tight end George Wrinthler (87) dives over Tennessee Titans cornerback Samari Rolle (21) to score a touchdown on a third-and-10 late in the fourth quarter. The Jaguars won 15-12.

team, said it remains to be seen if this marks a turning point in the season.

"But to beat Tennessee is a big victory for this franchise," he said.

Byron Leftwich threw for 124 yards and a touchdown. He also directed the 13-play, 69-yard drive that Taylor capped with the go-ahead TD, and Leftwich provided the final cushion with a 2-point conversion to Reggie Williams after Taylor's TD.

Chris Brown snapped the Jaguars' NFL-best streak of not allowing a 100-yard rusher in 17 games. Brown ran 23 times for 101 yards and a 26-yard TD that put the Titans up 12-7 with 5:27 left.

McNair's last play was a 2-point conversion pass that went high over Derrick Mason in the end zone. He then took off his shoulder pads, bent over and had

a team doctor inspect his breathing.

"I don't tell Steve not to run," Titans coach Jeff Fisher said. "He took this game over and gave us a chance to put a scoring drive together with the two runs. That's the risk he takes."

He was admitted to the hospital when further tests were negative. "I don't tell Steve not to run," Titans coach Jeff Fisher said. "He took this game over and gave us a chance to put a scoring drive together with the two runs. That's the risk he takes."

The Titans dominated the first half, holding the ball for nearly 20 minutes. But they got only field goals of 26 and 40 yards from Gary Anderson, then started the second half by going three-and-out twice.

Now the Titans have lost consecutive games at home for the first time since 2002 and back-to-back conference games for the first time since 2001. Now they face two straight road games and the possibility of a 1-4 start.

They did just that in 2002 when they reached the AFC championship game.

Running backs

■ Onterio Smith, Vikings, had 94 yards rushing and 104 yards receiving in a 27-21 win over Chicago. In the same game, Thomas Jones rushed for 10 yards and added 71 yards receiving for the Bears.

■ Jamal Lewis, Ravens, ran for 186 yards, including a 75-yard touchdown sprint that clinched a 23-9 victory over the Bengals. Lewis has topped 100 yards in all seven career games against Cincinnati.

■ Chris Brown, Titans, became only the second back since 1970 to rush for 100 yards in each of his first three starts with 101 vs. Jacksonville, Stump Mitchell did it in his first four starts with the then-St. Louis Cardinals in the 1980s.

■ Aaron Stecker, Saints, replacing injured Deuce McAllister, entered the game at St. Louis with 443 yards rushing in four-plus seasons. He had 106 yards on 18 carries Sunday, including a 42-yard touchdown run, in a 28-25 win over the Rams.

■ Tim Barber, Giants, had 106 yards rushing and an 8-yard touchdown and added 48 yards receiving in a 27-10 win over Cleveland.



Houston Texans wide receiver Derick Armstrong (88) gets past Kansas City Chiefs safety Greg Wesley (25) in the fourth quarter, setting up a 49-yard game-winning field goal. The Texans beat the Chiefs 24-21.

Chiefs throw away chance at first win

By STEVE BREISNDEN

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Kansas City Chiefs were 2 yards away from taking a double-digit lead against Houston, hoping to avoid their first 0-3 start in 24 years.

Then Trent Green hung a badly thrown pass and Marcus Coleman took advantage.

Coleman intercepted the ball and raced 102 yards for a third-quarter touchdown, keeping the defending AFC West champs from taking a 15-point lead. Instead, the Texans tied it at 14 and eventually won 24-21 when Kris Brown kicked a 49-yard field goal with 2 seconds left.

"That was a huge play he made," Houston coach Dom Capers said. "That got us back in the game."

Kansas City, 13-3 a year ago, is 0-3 for the first time since starting the 1980 season 0-4. The Chiefs became the fourth team since 1990 to start 0-3 after making the playoffs the previous season.

Coleman's return was the longest defensive touchdown ever given up by the Chiefs, and the longest in Houston's two-plus seasons. It came after the Texans (1-2) stuffed the best running back in Chiefs history for a loss near the goal line.

Priest Holmes, who broke Christian Okoye's career rushing record with 134 yards Sunday, lost a yard on first-and-goal from the 1.

The Chiefs decided to try a pass in the right flat to tight end Tony Gonzalez, who has already caught the first of Green's three scoring passes.

Gonzalez turned around, just in time to see Coleman snag the ball and take off down the left sideline. Holmes caught him just outside the end zone, but was unable to strip the ball.

"It feels like someone's got me in a headlock, and I can't get out of it," said Gonzalez, whose 14-yard catch gave Kansas City a 7-0 lead in the first quarter.

Holmes played despite a sprained ankle. He broke Okoye's record of 4,897 yards midway through the third quarter, on a 7-yard run up the middle, and finished the game with 4,941 yards.

After the interception return, the Chiefs went up 21-14 on Green's 5-yard pass to Jason Dunn with just under 11 minutes left.

But Kansas City's defense suddenly found itself susceptible to the long pass.

Derick Armstrong had a 20-yard catch on third-and-17, followed by Andre Johnson's leaping, juggling 37-yard reception over cornerback Eric Warfield to set up David Carr's 9-yard pass to Jabar Gaffney to tie it at 21. On Houston's final drive, Armstrong hauled in a 35-yarder to get the Texans within field goal range.

"I was pleased with our run defense," Chiefs coach Dick Vermeil said. "They got some throws on us, no question. We lost a very disheartening football game, and it'll hurt."

Sunday's NFL stars:

Quarterbacks

■ Peyton Manning, Colts, threw for 393 yards and five first-half touchdowns in a 45-11 win over Green Bay. Manning had the most TD throws in one half since Tommy Lavan's 1986, and in one half since Tom Brady's 247, since Boomer Esiason in 1996.

■ Brett Favre, Packers, threw for 358 yards and four TDs in the same game.

■ Dante Culpepper, Vikings, passed for 360 yards and two TDs and ran for a score in a 27-22 win over Chicago.

■ Aaron Brooks, Saints, was 24-for-41 for 316 yards and a touchdown, and guided a late, tying lead in a 28-25 overtime, New Orleans beat St. Louis 28-25 in overtime. Marc Bulger, Rams, was 32-for-49 for 358 yards with a TD pass and a touchdown run.

■ Donovan McNair, Eagles, threw for 356 yards and two touchdowns and ran for a score in Philadelphia's 30-13 win at Detroit.



Receivers

■ Randy Moss, Vikings, had 119 yards receiving and two TDs in a 27-22 victory against the Bears.

■ Isaac Bruce, Rams, caught eight passes for 134 yards, his third straight 100-yard day. The last time Bruce had three straight 100-yard receiving games was in 1995, when he had six in a row.

■ Rookie Roy Williams, Lions, had nine receptions for 135 yards and 75, the second straight week he scored twice, but Detroit lost to Philadelphia 30-17.

■ Reggie Wayne, Colts, made 11 receptions for 184 yards and a TD, while Brandon Stokley had eight catches for 110 yards and two scores in a 45-31 win over the Packers. Both were career highs for receivers.

■ Javon Walker, Packers, had 11 receptions for 188 yards and three TDs in the same game. He, too, set a career high in catches and yards.



SPORTS

Dynamic duel



Gordon moves to front
in quest for fifth Cup title,
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AP photos

Colts quarterback Peyton Manning, above, threw five touchdowns in the first half and finished with 393 yards passing. His five TDs losses were the most in a half since Minnesota's Tommy Kramer threw five in 1996. Packers quarterback Brett Favre, left, had 358 yards passing and four touchdowns in a losing effort.

Manning, Favre combine for 751 yards, 9 TDs in Colts' win

BY MICHAEL MAROT
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Peyton Manning and Brett Favre threw touchdown pass after touchdown pass, moving the ball as if the defenses were little more than speed bumps.

The dizzying array of offense produced nine touchdowns and no interceptions. Midway through the fourth quarter, Favre mounted another drive, hoping to throw for another score.

That is, until rookie cornerback Jason David stepped up.

David ripped the ball away from Javon

Walker, and Nick Harper recovered the fumble to help preserve the Colts' 45-31 victory Sunday.

"As soon as I got to the guy, the ball was showing," David said. "It's kind of early in the season, but every chance we get to make the big play, we've got to make it."

The play changed the complexion of a game that had been anything but defensive.

Favre and Manning combined to throw for 751 yards. Eleven minutes into the game, the Colts (2-1) and Packers (1-2) had already combined for 35 points. The Colts ran the ball only once in the first 15 minutes — a play negated by an offside penalty — while Manning threw for 247 yards and three TDs in the first quarter alone.

Neither team had an answer until David and Harper teamed to produce the only significant turnover of the game.

"This was a game of two guys who didn't want to lose," Colts coach Tony Dungy said. "I hadn't seen Brett in three years, and I can't say that I miss him."

The MVP quarterbacks lived up to their billing with mind-boggling numbers.

Manning completed 28 of 40 passes for 393 yards and five touchdowns, his third regular-season game since Sept. 28, 2003, with at least five TD passes. Manning threw all five in the first half, the first time a quarterback threw that many in a half

since Minnesota's Tommy Kramer did it in 1986.

Favre nearly matched him, finishing 30-for-44 for 358 yards and four touchdowns, including a 79-yarder to Walker, before sitting out the Packers' final series with an injured left hamstring. Favre said it wasn't serious enough to keep him out of action next week.

Receivers on both sides also had career days.

Reggie Wayne caught 11 passes for 184 yards, both career-highs, and one TD. Brandon Stokley caught eight passes for a career-high 110 yards and two TDs.

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**Surprising starts:
Jaguars make it
three straight wins
in final seconds
while Texans' late FG
drops Chiefs to 0-3**

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**Angels' rally
pulls them
within one game
of Athletics
in tight AL West**

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Singh wins 84 Lumber Classic, breaks Woods' money record Page 27